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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-89-090
Thursday
11 May 1989

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Klibi on Lebanese Cease-Fire, Syrian Role

LD1105022589 Paris Domestic Service in French
1715 GMT 10 May 89

[Telephone interview with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Tunis by Ralph Pinto for Foreign Policy Magazine program—live]

[Excerpts] [Pinto] It has been said that war does not stop in Beirut and in nearly a third of Lebanese territory. For days and days in fact, fighting has been going on since 14 March when Christian Prime Minister Michel 'Awn launched what he called a liberation war against Syrian occupation. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] Your deputy, the deputy secretary general of the Arab League and the Kuwaiti ambassador to Damascus had already accomplished a first mission last week in Damascus and Beirut without great success, and they will return there. But why don't you go yourself to Beirut and Damascus?

[Klibi] I would if necessary, and I am making contacts for such a possibility. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] That is to say, if your current mission in Damascus and tomorrow's in Beirut failed to obtain observation of a cease-fire, you would personally be ready to go to the spot?

[Klibi] Absolutely, absolutely, absolutely, and I am also considering other initiatives that could also help a new process of dialogue with recalcitrant parties.

[Pinto] Who do you mean? Do you mean the United Nations?

[Klibi] I think first about those inside Lebanon, about those who have not accepted the cease-fire, those who are not convinced yet by the necessity to strictly observe the cease-fire. We are in daily contact with the United Nations via our bureau in New York but also directly.

[Pinto] Does this mean that you have already had talks with UN Secretary General Perez de Cullar?

[Klibi] Yes, yes, almost daily through our New York bureau. Yesterday Clovis Maqsud, the League's representative in New York had talks with Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and the substance of the talks that reached me is very positive for the League's action.

[Pinto] You think that there is a line that should not be crossed, but at that moment you personally could go to the spot?

[Klibi] Yes.

[Pinto] In the area?

[Klibi] Absolutely.

[Pinto] A stopover in Damascus and a stopover in Beirut?

[Klibi] Yes. In Damascus, because it is always necessary to pass by Damascus, because Damascus has the means to help positive and efficient action. [Pinto] Secretary general, you mention the role of Damascus, how do you personally see Syria's role in Lebanon?

[Klibi] Listen, Syria's presence in Lebanon does not mean that Syria wanted to be in Lebanon.

Remember that those who are asking for it to withdraw today were among those who wanted its presence in 1976. So the Syrian troops first entered in a brotherly solidarity action in Lebanon, above all to defend certain populations, the Christians in the majority, which were in conflict with Palestinian forces.

And that is how the Syrian troops established themselves, to pacify, to police, and under cover of an Arab deterrent force. And I can assure you that the Syrians and the Syrian president are far from being pleased with this mission, because it is not a normal mission for an army—an army that is primarily conceived and organized to defend the country's borders and not to undertake policing.

So I think that the Syrian president has no other desire than to get out of this Lebanese mess—but to get out at the moment when the country can take its destiny into its own hands. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] Well, Syria has at least 30,000 troops in Lebanon.

[Klibi] They are not all in Beirut as you know.

[Pinto] Of course, and the Syrians have under their protection between 65 and 70 percent of the Lebanese territory at least, secretary general?

[Klibi] Yes, Yes, it is true. Listen, my role is not to defend Syria or any other country.

My role is supranational, but I have to say that so far Syria's role has been positive, and it could be even better if we know how to use it and which language to use, and we are determined to do so. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] When do you think it is necessary to mobilize the 321 observers to go to the spot?

[Klibi] For your information, we are organizing their departure. We have already received acceptance from a certain number of countries, and I can tell you that Algeria is sending more than its quota, and we are sure that the Algerian contingent will start with very positive work in the field in the coming days.

[Pinto] So you think that in a few days the observers, or at least some of them, will be on the spot?

[Klibi] Yes, the majority will be on the spot operationally.

[Pinto] Do you think that a liaison between the Arab League and the United Nations will be achieved?

[Klibi] You speak of it as a project for the future, while now it is a daily occurrence. Mr Perez de Cuellar and I coordinate our actions very closely. I am sure if the question were put to Mr Perez de Cuellar he would answer similarly. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] Yesterday, during a meeting between President Mubarak and President Saddam Husayn of Iraq, we heard an interesting statement that calls for an end to Israeli occupation of the south, an end to the Syrian presence, as well as—we often seem to forget, Mr Klibi—an end to the presence of certain others who have nothing to do with the region and who are called Iranians. What do you think of this incredible presence?

[Klibi] We strongly regret it, and we think that should end as soon as possible. But we can only create conditions to end this presence once we manage to build a national consensus in Lebanon and once Israel leaves the south.

At that moment, we deprive the Iranians and pro-Iranians of any justification for so-called nationalist action. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] You will be able to discuss Lebanon when you gather with Arab heads of state and government in Casablanca. Can you confirm that the summit will be held?

[Klibi] On 23 and 24 [May] in Casablanca.

[Pinto] A summit with a simple two-word agenda: Lebanon...

[Klibi, interrupting] You start with Lebanon, but I start with the Palestinian question.

[Pinto] Well then, let's start with the Palestinian question.

[Klibi] The Palestinian question, then Lebanon, then the Iran-Iraq war. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] Well, word for word: is caduc [obsolete; word used by 'Arafat in Paris to describe PLO Charter] valid, acceptable, sufficient?

[Klibi] I have been using it for years.

[Pinto] Oh, we in Paris have been wondering who inspired it.

[Klibi] No, I did not inspire it, I didn't say that. But it is the word I use. Whenever a diplomat asks me, I say after what was decided in Algiers all that constitutes the Palestinian Charter is caduc. [passage omitted]

[Pinto] There is a third item on this summit's agenda, an important one, concerning the return of the most important of Arab states, Egypt, which will be invited to return.

[Klibi] Well, so much the better, I am pleased because I have always thought that the absence of Egypt was a scandal and constitutes a weakness in our common Arab action.

The expulsion of Egypt was surely a political mistake. It is not by giving up the biggest Arab country that we fight Israel; on the contrary, it is by keeping it in the Arab community. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

Abu Sharif: 'Arafat-Thatcher Meeting 'Possible'

JN1005161089 Manama WAKH in English 1545 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Manama, May 10 (GNA)—Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has described his talks with British Minister at the Foreign Office William Waldegrave in London last night as "positive and constructive."

In a statement to Bahraini 'AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ' newspaper published today, Abu Sharif said that the meeting tackled the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab lands and the U.N. Security Council's role in protecting the Palestinians from the Zionist crimes and brutalities.

Whether PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat would visit the UK to confer with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Abu Sharif said that Waldegrave had pointed out lately that such a meeting is possible.

PLO Leaders Reject Rafsanjani Reprisals Call

PM1005150289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 8 May 89 pp 1-2

[Zaki Musa report: "Palestinians React Fiercely to Rafsanjani Call for Murder of Westerners"]

[Excerpt] Tunis, London—The PLO and Palestinian figures in the occupied territory have rejected Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's statements calling on Palestinians to strike at Western interests, hijack civilian planes, and kill five Westerners for every Palestinian martyr in the occupied territory.

President of the Palestinian State Yasir 'Arafat led the rejection of that call. Speaking at a news conference in Tunis yesterday before his departure for Baghdad, he said that he "totally" rejected the Iranian call.

PLO leaders and Palestinian figures in the occupied territory believe that the Iranian call diverts the attention now focused on the Palestinian people's struggle reflected in their continuing intifadah [uprising].

PLO Executive Committee member Muhammad Milhim said that Rafsanjani's statement urging the killing of American and European civilians runs contrary to the spirit of Islam.

Milhim told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that when the noble prophet Muhammad launched his campaigns against the infidels he instructed his fighters to preserve human and other life.

The Palestinian official, who is head of the occupied homeland department, said that the call for terrorism was against the true religion of Islam and would undermine world sympathy with the Palestinian people just as they are beginning to see the need for the fulfillment of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights including self-determination.

Milhim said Rafsanjani should know that the Palestinian people's decisions are made by the Palestine National Council [PNC] and nobody else. He added: Our people in the occupied territory and outside it are fully aware of the dangers of such slippery methods.

The PLO Executive Committee member said Rafsanjani should devote himself to resolving the problems of his own people instead of making such calls, particularly as the facts prove that he has failed in his war against others and also when he talked about establishing peace.

The Iranian Majlis speaker's statements were also condemned by President Yasir 'Arafat's information adviser, Bassam Abu Sharif, who said that Rafsanjani's call was unacceptable and that the Palestinian people would not allow it.

He said the PLO has managed to win over world opinion and gain its sympathy and support for Palestinian self-determination and independence, having explained its position and desire for peace.

The PLO would not have been able to achieve that, had it not been for the massive sacrifices made by all the sectors of the Palestinian people, including the shedding of their blood, which still continues at all times.

President 'Arafat's information adviser said that Iran badly needed to heal the wounds of its own people and look after its own affairs after the calamities it has suffered as a result of its mistaken decision to go to war against Iraq.

He added: Is it not sad that the public's attention is being diverted to discussions of Rafsanjani's views when the occupied territory is witnessing massacres by the occupation authorities which claiming scores of casualties?

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has also condemned Rafsanjani's statements. He told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT:

The Palestinian people do not pay the slightest attention to such statements because all sectors of the Palestinian people realize the grave consequences of such acts, which would only be denounced and condemned by the world, which has supported our cause and brought about all the changes so far.

Frayj emphasized that the Palestinian people under PLO leadership have categorically renounced terrorism and harm to innocent people and have demonstrated it in words and deeds on more than one occasion. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Grants $2.5 Million to 'Uprising' Fund

JN1005174289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1717 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 10 (KUNA)—The ambassador of the State of Palestine to Kuwait 'Awni Battash today expressed gratitude for h.h. [his highness], the amir, Kuwait Government and people for their supportive stands to Palestine, its revolution and its uprising.

Battash said in a press release that Kuwait had recently transferred two and a half million U.S. dollars in support of the uprising fund in addition to one million and a half for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

The Palestinian ambassador hoped that Arab countries that haven't paid their financial commitments to the PLO's uprising fund would do so soon at a time when the Israelis have been escalating their brutal and barbaric repression against the Palestinian people in the occupied land.

Fatah's Khalaf Discusses 'Arafat Visit to France

NC1005195089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, the Palestinian vice president and second ranking man in Fatah, has praised Egypt's positive moves in support of the Palestinian cause.

He has also praised President Husni Mubarak's efforts to achieve a settlement and a comprehensive, durable, and just peace in the Middle East.

In an interview to be published by the Egyptian magazine AL-MUSAWWAR on Thursday [11 May], Abu Iyad refers to the major role of President Mubarak and his personal contribution in bringing about the visit which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat paid to France recently. He also refers to Mubarak's follow-up of the visit to close all the gaps that were continually being created.

Abu Iyad praises Egypt's recent intensive activities with the Latin American states and Europe in order to shine the light on the Palestine National Council's resolutions issued in Algiers, in their capacity as an unprecedented historic step. He stresses that these efforts will have their results and dimensions in the Arab and Palestinian arenas.

Khalaf denies the allegations that during his recent visit to Paris 'Arafat told French President Francois Mitterrand that he approves of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan for elections in the occupied areas.

Abu Iyad reiterated his rejection of the plan, which Israel puts forth in order to pretend to the world that there is an election plan which will lead to a final solution.

Abu Iyad says: What is acceptable is a clear and comprehensive plan of which the elections would be a part, whose beginning and end would be specified, and which would provide for an interim period of international supervision of the occupied territories until the elections are held and for negotiations afterwards, within the framework of the international conference for peace.

Regarding the relationship with Syria and Algerian mediation efforts for a rapprochement, Abu Iyad says that the relations with the Syrian people are fraternal.

However, he points out that there are forces inside Syria and some Palestinian organizations that are trying to undermine the rapprochement efforts.

He stresses that it is necessary to deal with this issue objectively and unemotionally and on the principle that political action is what is called for now, because Syria must participate in any international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Referring to the anticipated Arab summit, Abu Iyad says: It will be a summit for the return of Egypt [to the Arab fold] because no Arab party has any reservations now.

He expresses optimism about the coming Arab political action alongside the PLO action to bolster peace and support and strengthen the Palestinian cause.

West Bank Official Disputes Casualty Figures

JN1005115089 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
10 May 89 pp 20, 16

[By Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Excerpts] Dr Yasir 'Ubayd, director of the health department in the occupied West Bank, has declared that the occupation authorities deliberately conceal data and facts about the martyrs, wounded, and detainees of the blessed intifadah [uprising] to cover up the crimes which are being committed by the Israeli army in the occupied areas.

In an exclusive interview with AL-DUSTUR, he said: Our lists show 700 Palestinian martyrs so far, while the occupation authorities say there are no more than 475. Our lists also show that 10,000 wounded were admitted to the hospitals for treatment or surgery.

Dr 'Ubayd added: Actually, thousands of others suffering from bruises have not come to hospitals for fear of being detained. But our real problem is with the incurables suffering from bullets in the nervous system, because they need rehabilitation and physiotherapy, which is still not available in the West Bank.

Dr 'Ubayd said preparations are underway to set up a hospital in Ramallah called "The Society of the Friends of the Patient Hospital." He said the Abu Rayya School is being converted into a 100-bed hospital, with the Swedish Government assistance, to rehabilitate those with disabilities. The hospital will be ready in 6 months, he added. [passage omitted]

Replying to a question, Dr 'Ubayd said: The Israeli concept of the elections in the occupied areas is rejected by everyone. This concept is not being considered by the Palestinians, and there is unanimous public support for what the PLO deems right on this subject.

Dr 'Ubayd said the occupation authorities are trying by every means to find a substitute for the PLO leadership, but these attempts have failed and will continue to fail, because the citizens have rallied around the Palestinian leadership and the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people. [passage omitted]

Palestine Army Reportedly Forms New Units

JN1105071289 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
11 May 89 p 1

[Text] Occupied Jerusalem—The Palestinian Popular Army in the occupied homeland yesterday distributed Statement No. 1 which announced the formation of the "Vanguard Units [firaq al-intilaqah] for the Liberation of Palestine."

The statement said: The Vanguard Units for the Liberation of Palestine have assumed the responsibility to entrench the militant confrontation against the Zionist enemy through all available forms and methods.

They will endeavor to escalate the blessed intifadah [uprising] until the liberation of Palestine and the establishment of the independent Palestinian state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

The statement added: While they are engaged in a war of popular liberation against Zionism, the Vanguard Units for the Liberation of Palestine declare that there shall be no truce and no halt to the Palestinian popular intifadah except by the withdrawal of Zionist troops from the land of Palestine.

Dissident Fatah Group Issues Statement

JN1005143289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] The [dissident] Fatah-The Uprising Movement has renewed its pledge to remain on the front line of confrontation against all destructive plots furthered by those who follow the capitulationist course in the Palestinian issue.

A political statement, issued by the Palestine National Liberation Movement—Fatah—Provisinal Command on the 6th anniversary of the revolutionary uprising in Fatah movement, stated that the conflict with the Zionist enemy is not to be decided upon by a treacherous handful of the people or by those who are involved in American arrangements.

The statement said that the standing contradiction between the Palestinian people and the Arab nation on the one hand and the Zionist imperialist enemy on the other will not be halted and that in the end victory will only be for our people's will, which is reinforced by the sacrifices of their heroes in daily confrontation.

The statement added: The revolutionary uprising in the Fatah movement, which on 9 May 1983 renewed its pledge to the masses of the people and nation to continue the march of armed struggle until liberation, knew full well that preserving the Palestinian national identity and continuing to take pride in the Palestinian affiliation—land and people—cannot come through empty slogans, which smell of capitulation and opportunism while claiming to preserve independent decisionmaking and protect the Palestinian identity.

This is because the Palestinian people's identity emerged through the national armed struggle for liberation.

In its statement, the provisional command warned against the danger to the Palestine cause and the heroic intifadah [uprising] inside the occupied homeland posed by the liquidatory plots practiced by the capitulationist faction inside the PLO.

It asserted that these plots will inevitably fail and that those who hatch them will fall and be defeated.

Concluding its statement, the Fatah provisional command asserted the need for developing and entrenching the pan-Arab and national Palestinian-Lebanese-Syrian alliance.

It also called for reviving the importance and effectiveness of the efforts of the Arab nationalist forces and regimes within a consolidated front to confront the U.S.-Zionist onslaught and foil all its plans and conspiracies.

PLO's Al-Tarazi on Quest for WHO Membership

JN0405203789 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1826 GMT 4 May 89

[Text] Brother Zuhdi al-Tarazi, permanent representative of the State of Palestine at the United Nations, has affirmed the legitimate Palestinian right to obtain full membership in all UN organizations.

In an interview, Al-Tarazi said that the Palestinian application to join international organizations is a legitimate request, as it is based on the UN resolution recommending the establishment of two states. He added that the international body must accord equal treatment to the two states.

On the U.S. rejection of the Palestinian right, Al-Tarazi pointed out that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker seeks to politicize this issue. He went on to say that the Palestinian right to request admission to the WHO and other UN organizations is based on the UN partition resolutions.

In a related development, the WHO General Assembly will decide on the morning of Monday [8 May] in Geneva to list the topic pertaining to Palestine's nomination at its agenda if Palestine insists on going ahead with the application and fails to withdraw it.

It is well known that the joining of a new state to such organizations must enjoy the support of the majority of member states.

PLO UN Observer Urges Emergency Session

JN0205193789 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 May

[Text] Permanent Palestinian UN observer brother Zuhdi al-Tarazi has asked UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to call for the holding of an emergency session of the UN Security Council [UNSC] pursuant to the UN General Assembly [UNGA] resolution issued on 20 April.

The UNGA asked the UNSC in its resolution to urgently discuss the current situation in the occupied Palestinian territories in order to discuss important measures to provide international protection to the Palestinian civilians residing in the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

In a message sent to the UN secretary general last night, the chief Palestinian UN observer pointed out that Zionist terrorism in terms of its practices and policies against the Palestinian people has continued.

Zuhdi al-Tarazi said that he received instructions from the PLO Executive Committee, which has the powers and responsibilities of a provisional Palestinian government, asking him to request that the UN secretary general respond immediately and favorably to the UNGA demand.

Al-Tarazi added that the perpetration by the occupation authorities of these practices in the occupied territories, which are forms of state terrorism, constitutes an indisputable threat to world peace and security.

Workers Union Denounces 'Arafat Paris Statement

JN0405105289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0915 GMT 4 May 89

[Text] In Damascus, the General Union of Palestine Workers in Syria has denounced 'Arafat's recent statements that abolish the Palestine National Charter.

In a statement, the Union asserted that the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied homeland, our Palestinian people's masses and their nationalist factions, and the Arab national liberation movements will topple the wagering of imperialists, Zionists, and reactionaries, whose fate will not be better than that of those who are executed by the stones and knives of the children and heroes of the intifadah.

Algeria

Demonstrators Stone Housing Office in Souk-Ahras

NC1005171989 Paris AFP in English 1656 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Algiers, May 10 (AFP)—Demonstrators stoned the town hall and the housing management offices at Souk-Ahras in eastern Algeria Wednesday [10 May] after lists of housing allocations were published, the official APS news agency said.

Steps were taken to restore order, the agency said, adding that the scale of the violence was not yet known.

It was not clear whether the rioters, who were mainly very young people carrying satchels, had clashed with police, but public buildings and shops had closed.

Further on 'Rampage'

LD1005195889 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpts] We have received a communique from the governorate of Souk-Ahras which says that in the wake of the publication of a list of beneficiaries of 900 municipal homes, a group of individuals went on the rampage, undertaking acts of sabotage against public and privately owned property.

This happened despite the fact that the popular municipal list and the communique accompanying the list both explain to citizens the procedure followed by the committee which decided on the distribution of these homes. [passage omitted]

This behaviour has no justification because it represents acts that must be condemned, and their perpetrators must be brought to justice. Whatever the severity of the housing crisis, as the governorate communique concludes, this crisis cannot be used as a pretext by irresponsible individuals to commit acts harming public security and the peoples' peace.

Injuries Reported in 'Riot'

NC1005192389 Paris AFP in English 1905 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Algiers, May 10 (AFP)—Several people were hurt at Souk-Ahras in eastern Algeria Wednesday as demonstrators stoned housing management offices and other public buildings, witnesses said.

Witnesses said several hundred people rioted when local officials read out a list of allocated apartments and then posted it in accordance with recent regulations calling for more public information about such decisions.

Medical sources said up to 10 people had been taken to hospital with minor injuries, but the unrest went on late Wednesday.

Demonstrators attacked the town hall and the homes of the local prefect (administrator) and ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) political commissar. They set a number of public buildings ablaze as traders hastily closed their shops.

The official APS news agency earlier said that "steps were taken to restore order." Police used tear gas and water cannons, while reinforcements were rushed in from Constantine, Annaba and Tebessa.

APS has reported "a violent demonstration of disapproval" over the housing allocations in Souk-Ahras, a town of 50,000 south of Annaba and close to the Tunisian border, adding that many protesters were young people.

General Staff Chief Meets Soviet Delegation

NC1005174089 Algiers APS in English 1340 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Algiers, 10 May (APS)—General Khaled Nezar, head of the general staff of the People's National Army, received on Wednesday the Soviet military delegation led by General of Army Aleksey Lizichev, head of the central political leadership and the war marine.

Egypt

Post-Election Price Increases Reportedly Planned

JN1005183489 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 8 May 89 p 1

[Text] It has been decided not to make an announcement on price increases before the Consultative Council elections in June. This decision was made so that the price increases will not be a cause for the masses to boycott the National Democratic Party [NDP] candidates in the Consultative Council elections.

The decision was also made to enable the deputy prime ministers, ministers, and senior officials to campaign for NDP candidates in symposiums and conferences without facing embarrassing questions on the price hikes.

The decision to increase prices was supposed to be announced along with the decision to increase interest rates on deposits before talks with the IMF delegates begin in mid-May. The IMF conditions call for stopping subsidies on commodities. This will result in price increases.

It was decided to announce the increase in interest rates on deposits in the wake of the 'Id and to postpone the announcement on price increases until after the Consultative Council elections.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi stated last week that the increase in interest rates on deposits will be announced and implemented as of 1 May. But, because of the 1 May holiday, the banks were closed and the decision on raising the interest rates on deposits was consequently postponed.

Interior Ministry Denies Human Rights Charges

NC1105044389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2123 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Commenting on the report that has been issued by the human rights organization in London, which says that some detainees in Egypt have recently been tortured and beaten up with the knowledge of the police. an official source at the Interior Ministry said today that absolutely no kind of torture is practiced in Egyptian prisons.

The source added that the judicial departments supervise the affairs of the detainees and investigate their complaints. He added that there has been no evidence of any kind of torture so far and the detainees enjoy all the rights of detainees guaranted and established by law and regulation.

The source went on: As for the arrest of some extremists who indulge in acts of terrorism, they were arrested in accordance with the state of emergency law after the ministry received confirmed reports about their intention to carry out terrorist actions.

The source added that, according to the state of emergency law, the detainees have the right to appeal to the judiciary so that it can decide to release them if there is insufficient information on their activities.

The source said that the Interior Ministry abides by the judiciary's final release decisions.

He added that there are no more than 900 detainees at present and they are being systematically released on the basis of the appraisal of their activities.

Defense Minister Interviewed on Budget, Security

JN1105101489 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 5 May 1989 pp 4-11

[Interview with General Yusuf Abu Talib, minister of defense and commander in chief of the Armed Forces, by Chief Editor Makram Muhammad Ahmad in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ahmad] Your Excellency the Minister, when did the president approach you about the subject of replacing the defense minister and when did he inform you of the assignment? What crossed your mind about what to do the next morning?

[Abu Talib] I believe that the president is the only one entitled to talk about the details of this subject. I am entitled to talk about my feelings regarding the honor of the assignment.

[Ahmad] But everybody says that the president approached you with the subject when he took you with him on his recent visit to Jordan. In the morning of that visit, he attended the opening of the Al-Marj Metro Station and Ghamrah Bridge?

[Abu Talib] The president did not approach me about anything during that visit.

[Ahmad] Then he approached you about the subject after you returned?

[Abu Talib] I will not talk about the details of this assignment. Allow me only to talk about my feelings on the subject. [Passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Your Excellency the Minister, there are some who believe that one of the tasks which you came to carry out, is to reduce the Armed Forces budget and cut the military expenditure within the framework of the new necessities called for by the economic reform steps?

[Abu Talib] To regulate expenditure, yes. I have tried to explain this through the simple example on housing the brigade stationed at the 3d Army old headquarters and moving it from the trenches and flimsy tents—a situation which affects the Armed Forces effectiveness and morale.

Therefore, the issue here is that we must endeavor to maximize the return of our expenditure. With 5 million pounds, they managed to build barracks which the contractors estimated would cost 20 million.

Hence, 5 million pounds yielded the same return in a project which might have cost 20 million.

I believe that the right course is to seek to maximize the return of our expenditure in all fields.

We must also seek to achieve the best use of available resources so that we can reach the optimum use of available resources in order to provide services and good care for the officers. In that sense, I support the regulation of expenditure.

Regarding the Armed Forces budget, this budget is connected with the Armed Forces strategy and the state's defense policy, including the policies of armaments.

This budget is approved by the supreme commander of the Armed Forces. This has been the case before and will remain so in the future. The budget is estimated according to the state's defense policies and the assessment of the supreme commander in light of the Council of Ministers' collective responsibility.

[Ahmad] Has anybody approached you with the subject of cutting the Armed Forces budget—I mean the president or the prime minister.

[Abu Talib] No, this did not happen. I would like to assert that the draft budget for 1989-1990, which was coordinated with the minister of finance, is not less than those of previous years. It might even be bigger as a result of natural increase rates. [Passage omitted]

[Ahmad] Your Excellency the Minister, I wish to ask you about your views on Egypt's security needs. Where does danger lie; and what is the nature of the threats that face Egypt? Also, what is the connection of all of these with Egyptian security?

[Abu Talib] I do not want to talk hastily about Egypt's defense policies because, here, I do not express a personal opinion but I express the national security's policies.

Probably one of the mistakes which many make is that they mix between their own concepts and national security policies, whose programs are formulated by the command organization according to the principal goals dictated by Egypt's supreme interests as viewed by the state and determined by the Armed Forces supreme commander.

Also, I do not believe that the strategic goals of Egypt's defense policies can change with the replacement of the defense minister. We may have the right to review matters so that we can become more confident about the ability of these policies to deal with the developments in our world and amend them so that they become more compatible with the circumstances of these developments.

Here, I may be able to say that elements of threat which could affect Egyptian security are represented in the overall circumstances that surround us today:

—On Egypt's eastern flank, which was, and still is, one of the major sources of threat to Egypt's security, we are tied with a peace treaty to Israel. We are hoping and struggling so that this peace becomes part of a comprehensive peace in the region that will restore stability to the Middle East. Peace is an ultimate and main objective for Egypt.

[Ahmad] But, what about the spots of tension that exist in the eastern Mediterranean due to the absence of a solution to the Palestinian problem and the effect of the mounting violence there [in the occupied territories], the disintegration in Lebanon, and the extreme trend which is spreading from Iran to Lebanon?

[Abu Talib] I believe that the escalation of tension in the eastern Mediterranean may involve possible dangers that might threaten Egypt's security.

—In the south, Egyptian security and Sudanese security are fatefully bound. What ties us to the Sudan—in addition to neighborliness, brotherhood, and destiny—is an artery of life.

Therefore, what is happening in southern Sudan occupies a significant space in the subject of Egypt's security because the matter does not tolerate any alternative.

Hence, we always support Sudan's unity and peace. We also support every effort to restore peace to the south.

— In the west, we wish to maintain good neighborly relations with the Libyan people. But, what will our position be if Colonel Qadhdhafi insists on policies that are hostile to Egypt's security.

The major part of the Libyan Army is stationed on the borders with Egypt and it possesses medium-range missiles. We want the Libyan people to be strong, but the problem lies in the policies which Col Qadhdhafi still insists on and which are hostile to Egypt's security.

—We have vital interests in the Red Sea to which many Arab interests are linked. When mines were laid in the Red Sea, this ultimately constituted a threat to Red Sea security and the Canal security. Therefore, no Egyptian security policy can ignore Red Sea security.

— Finally, I want to mention another danger represented in the attempts to export violence and terrorism to many states, including Egypt, with the aim of undermining it from within. These dangers also occupy a prominent position in Egypt's security concerns. [passage omitted]

Mustafa, Soviet Minister on Economic Relations

NC1005154389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade, has stressed the Egyptian Government's concern to bolster economic and trade relations with the Soviet Union through establishing joint projects and increasing the volume of trade between the two countries.

Dr Mustafa held a news conference today, which was attended by Konstantin Katushev, Soviet minister of foreign economic relations, who is currently visiting Egypt.

Dr Mustafa said that he and the Soviet minister reviewed the economic policy which the Egyptian Government has pursued since 1974, especially the part relating to the encouragement of foreign investment. They also reviewed the reforms that have been adopted to support the open-door policy and correct some shortcomings in the application of this policy.

For his part, the Soviet minister reviewed the new policy of restructuring, or "perestroyka," which permits foreign investment in Soviet projects and invites foreign companies, especially construction companies, to undertake projects in the Soviet Union, especially the building of hospitals.

The Soviet minister explained that the Soviet Union will modernize some industrial installations in Egypt, such as an iron and steel plant, a thermal power plant, and two glass factories. It will also modernize the battery [as received] of the coke factory in Hulwan, a project for which 200 million sterling accounting pounds have been allocated.

He added that another 120 million sterling accounting pounds have been allocated to build a big power plant in Sinai. The Soviet Union will build this station through a loan offered for this purpose.

The Soviet minister said that both Egypt and the Soviet Union have distinguished themselves in the fields of technology and scientific research.

We hope, he said, that cooperation between the two countries will develop further in the coming stage, so that we may benefit from our combined know-how and set up joint projects with Egyptian establishments.

He explained that in the Soviet Union there are now over 600 joint projects with foreign organizations and companies from various states, including developing countries. We look forward to further cooperation with these states, especially Egypt, he said.

NPUG Leader Muhyi-al-Din Leaves for Moscow

NC1005151289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1258 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Khalid Muhyi-al-Din, leader of the National Progressive Unionist Grouping [NPUG] party, left Cairo for Moscow this afternoon on a visit to the Soviet Union.

During the week-long visit, which is taking place at the invitation of the Soviet Academy of Science, Muhyi-al-Din will participate in a debate on the Middle East problem.

Sudan

NIF's 'Abdun Cited on Bid To Oust Government

PM1105090889 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 May 89 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Islamic Front Leader Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We Will Continue Battle To Oust Al-Mahdi Government"]

[Text] Jeddah, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Bureau—Major General al-Fatih 'Abdun, former governor of the Sudanese capital and an National Islamic Front [NIF] leader, has emphasized that the front will continue to move the battle with the Sudanese Government into the streets because of the government's espousal of the peace initiative and its decision to freeze the criminal law.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Maj Gen 'Abdun described the Sudanese Government's decision to freeze the criminal law as "not based on constitutional legitimacy, since the transitional constitution governing Sudan openly stipulates the Shari'ah arbitration principle."

He added that the executive leadership of the NIF has decided to turn to the ordinary Sudanese citizen and to escalate the opposition against the Sudanese Government "until it falls or amends its decision to obstruct the Shari'ah."

He also said that the demonstrations organized and supervised by the executive leadership of the NIF will not stop.

He accused the Sudanese Government of surrendering to the Garang movement leading the rebels in the south.

He said: Sudanese democracy is now dead and has lost its legitimacy since devious forces at home and abroad have vanquished it.

NIF's Taha Interviewed on Front's Policy

PM1105111089 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 May 89 p 3

[Unattributed interview with 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, deputy secretary general of the National Islamic Front and leader of the parliamentary group in Khartoum, Sudan; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Interviewer] The National Islamic Front [NIF] has recently called on the people to take to the streets and stage demonstrations in protest against the freeze on the Islamic laws. Some of the demonstrations have led to bloody clashes, and this has prompted some observers to accuse the front of seeking to instigate sedition in the country. What is your opinion?

[Taha] The NIF is an Islamic organization whose political work represents one aspect of its various activities. It also expresses the comprehensive concept of Islam. The front entered the elections and secured valued parliamentary weight that has enabled it to influence events, participate in power, and lead the opposition.

Recent events are the product of the stances and incidents that have occurred since the approval of the phased program and the formation of the present government, whose main priorities are to achieve peace and improve the people's conditions.

On these two levels, the country has witnessed a rapid deterioration since the rebel movement stepped up its activities, hunting down military garrisons and advancing on the battle front, while the government moved toward approving the agreement between Al-Mirghani and Garang in the Council of Ministers and the Constituent Assembly.

And to prove its intentions and display its response to the other party's conditions, the government agreed to delay the Islamic laws until the national constitutional conference. It is as a result of that decision that the present series of incidents have erupted. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] The front's demonstrations led to confrontations in some areas, especially in Al-Thawrah, where the front's supporters burned a church, thus prompting the Christians to burn a mosque belonging to the Islamic call organization. As a result, some have accused you of seeking to stir up a religious sedition for the sake of political objectives.

[Taha] Actually the front called on the citizens to stage demonstrations and protest against the capitulation pursued by the government. The citizens' response was overwhelming. The slogans were both specific and disciplined: Rejecting capitulation, welcoming peace, calling for readiness to defend the homeland, and emphasizing the masses' adherence to the religion and the faith. So the accusation that the front is stirring up or promoting a religious sedition is baseless. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] In its recent seminars and demonstrations the NIF, through its secretary general, Dr Hasan al-Turabi, raised the slogan of the "jihad" against the government, thus prompting many political quarters to condemn that and consider it extremism. What is your comment?

[Taha] As is known, "jihad" is an Islamic term that can reflect broad meanings. Each meaning is determined according to conditions and circumstances. It has a fixed aspect of promoting virtue and repudiating vice. The jihad we have launched embodies the meaning of defense and military resistance to aggression by demanding the acceleration of the popular defense law and the revival of compulsory military conscription.

The other meaning is that we have called for the political jihad against the present government through demonstrations, professional and unionist pressures, and other means in order to force it to retreat and not to surrender to the rebels' conditions.

But we have not urged anyone to fight government supporters, Muslims or Christians who are not loyal to the front. We are seeking to oust the government in the same way as it assumed power. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] Since the formation of the present government, the national unity government, you have announced that you will work to topple it. Why this hard-line position? And why do you not appease it, especially as the country is going through a dangerous and difficult stage?

[Taha] That government was stillborn. This, because it had the idea of responding to Garang's conditions in the hope of achieving peace. For its part, the government has responded, but this has made the movement simply more arrogant. All other indications are that the war will continue for a long time. So the principle on the basis of which the government was formed has suffered a great failure.

Thus, attention must be given to the means of defense and preparedness, since we are forced to continue the war for some time. Not much has been achieved on that front. Although some have tried to exploit the Armed Forces' memorandum to cause estrangement between them and the front, I confirm that a sizeable section of the Armed Forces share our concept and view of the nature of the rebel movement and its objectives and of the preparedness needed to confront it.

And although we criticized some Army commanders over certain attitudes and statements, I now confirm that understanding prevails between the NIF and the Armed Forces as a national institution entrusted with defending the country. [passage omitted]

[Interviewer] The NIF's participation in the former government revealed the existence of two conflicting factions within it: The one that you lead includes the young people and opposes the front's participation in government. To what extent does that conflict affect decisionmaking?

[Taha] The matter has nothing to do with factions. It is merely to do with differing views and work for the public interests and to help us establish a stable and united Muslim society. We in the NIF are committed to the shura principle and that of exploring views among all sectors in order to reach agreement and join forces.

This is why after the decision taken by the shura body and our refusal to participate in the government, we all decided to implement and express that decision without delay and in complete harmony.

Paper Says Rebels, Government Should Meet

EA1005182089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1035 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Khartoum, 10 May (SUNA)—AL-KHARTOUM has expressed surprise at Colonel John Garang's unwillingness to respond to the prime minister's latest initiative to the effect that representatives of the government and of Garang's movement should meet to finalize the details of the cease-fire declared by Garang.

The paper described the prime minister's initiative as logical and sensible by any standard, in as much as agreement on a cease-fire—and a real one at that—is the aspiration of all.

AL-KHARTOUM went on to say, in its lead article, that Garang had determined that the cease-fire last a month [words indistinct], so as to paralyze the movement of the Sudanese Army, while giving the movement a free hand. The paper described this as unacceptable to any Sudanese citizen, let alone the command of the Armed Forces.

The paper called on Garang's movement, now that it had decided to reject the initiative, to put forward an alternative, so that practical steps toward peace could be taken. (?The paper said) that in its view there were two possible ways in which the movement could force the government to declare a reciprocal cease-fire.

The first of these was for Garang to make the cease-fire he had declared unconditional, and the second was for him to insist on the observance of the conditions he had set, but to render this observance incumbent upon the forces of his movement in the first place and put forward sufficient guarantees to govern implementation in this respect.

The paper clarified that in the first of the two instances the duration of the cease-fire should be extended until the convening of the constitutional conference.

The paper said: We say this assuming that Garang is eager for the peace process to succeed, which is something we are striving to convince the people of.

Foreign Minister on Relations With Neighbors

JN1005172189 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
9 May 89 p 23

[Interview with Foreign Minister Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn by Hasan Sati and Sawsan Abu Husayn in Cairo—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Question] Sudanese-Egyptian relations have recently become lukewarm. Why did your visit to Egypt come at this time in particular?

[Al-Husayn] There is no specific objective behind my visit to Egypt. As you know, I was in Tunis to take part in the Arab foreign ministers' meeting, and I thought of stopping in Cairo to meet with President Husni Mubarak and my colleague, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid.

The meetings with both of them dealt with bilateral relations and certain important political issues in the Arab and regional arenas. I left the issue of the Sudanese peace initiative to the official delegation, which will be specially sent to Egypt to explain the dimensions of the initiative under brother Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad.

[Question] There has been much talk recently about the dimensions of the joint defense pact with Egypt. Some people explained that its abrogation is a sign indicating that Egyptian-Sudanese relations are entering a winter. How do you assess this?

[Al-Husayn] The talk about the joint defense pact should not be interpreted as meaning that there is tension in Sudanese-Egyptian relations. This is because if we look at the nature of this relationship apart from this issue, we will find that economic relations are on course as are cultural and social relations.

If you look at these relations, you will notice that they began before there was any framework, and they did not even need a framework to regulate them because they came as result of eternal ties that have connected the two countries from time immemorial.

They were reinforced by joint struggle along the Nile against the colonialists, under whose banner all the efforts of nationalists in both countries united. This has created a spiritual tie between them whose meanings are still alive in both countries.

I want to assert the fact that these relations were found before any framework and without any framework. The frameworks came at a later stage, and the form of the framework was never the main issue.

I want to return to the subject of the joint defense of both countries before discussing the issue of the joint defense pact between the two countries, which is what your question is all about. In this regard, I say that we in the Sudan believe that Sudan is Egypt's strategic depth, and that Egypt is Sudan's strategic depth.

I am certain that if there is any aggression against Egypt, Sudan will find itself in the first defense line on the basis that it will be defending itself. The same can be said about Egypt. All of this can take place without the joint defense pact and without any frameworks.

Therefore, I say that the abrogation of the joint defense pact must not be understood as the beginning of tension between the two countries. Furthermore, the abrogation of this pact has not created a void. It was replaced by the brotherhood charter, which was signed between the two countries and which has security dimensions.

The abrogation of the joint defense pact and its replacement with the brotherhood charter came on the basis that the pact was signed at the time when the will of the Sudanese people had been usurped, and this is the direct reason behind abrogating it. However, this does not really change our assessment of the reality—that is each country is the strategic depth of the other. [passage omitted]

[Question] What is Sudan's position toward Egypt's return to the Arab League and its attendance of the forthcoming Arab summit?

[Al-Husayn] Sudanese history reveals the fact that the Sudanese people were among the first whose political dictionary dealt with the words unity and union. In the forties, the Democratic Unionist Party talked about these two words.

Sudan always supports the unification of Arab ranks to face the challenges against the Arab nation. If the Arab nation is now calling for closing ranks and regional groupings, then how can Sudan, which has always called for this, object?

[Question] Some claim that Sudan is experiencing regional isolation at a time when the Arab nation is being organized into groupings such as the Arab Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union in addition to the Gulf Cooperation Council. Where does Sudan fit, and what is your estimation of such a claim?

[Al-Husayn] The priority for the Sudanese at the moment is the problem of the internal war and the necessity of overcoming it. We are now occupied with ordering our house from the inside. It is not logical for us to carry our wounds over to these groupings. Sudan has not suffered at all due to their establishment.

Sudan has maintained its bilateral relations with its Arab brothers. These groupings have not fossilized bilateral relations between member countries or with other countries. In addition, these recent groupings are still at the formation stage and need some time to yield the fruit of their efforts. The hope is that Sudan will order its house first.

[Question] Chad has recently accused Sudan of working at shaking its stability after General Jamus [name as published] and some of his forces sought political refuge in Sudan and Sudan agreed to give political asylum to the deserters. What is your opinion on this accusation?

[Al-Husayn] It is traditional for citizens of neighboring countries to seek refuge in Sudan when any natural or security disasters befall those countries. As for Chad, the situation is unique in this case due to the presence of joint tribes along the borders, half of them in Chad and the other half in Sudan. It is only natural, in our opinion, for Chadian citizens to seek refuge in Sudan as a result of any disturbances in that friendly country.

Concerning the issue of political asylum which came up recently, it took place in accordance with international norms. The law on political asylum is so clear that no country respecting it can violate it. Sudan could not and would not create any disturbances with Chad. Sudan's foreign policy constants are based on respecting good-neighborliness.

[Question] As far as we learned, Kenya also refused to receive a delegation headed by you. You accused each other to such an extent that diplomats were expelled from both countries. Where did these problems between the two countries arise and what is the reason for them?

[Al-Husayn] There is a border dispute between Kenya and Sudan due to a triangle on the border between Sudan and Kenya. This triangle is part of Sudanese territory. Kenya changed the border lines and included this triangle in its territories, considering it part of its territories. It distributed maps with changed border lines to tourist companies.

In light of this incident, Sudan cannot be considered the troublemaker. The ways to solve these conflicts are known, and the arbitration lies in the original maps, which are filed in the international institutions.

Concerning Kenya's refusal to receive a Sudanese delegation, the truth on that matter is that we thought we ought to inform all our neighbors of the facts we reached in the peace agreement to create a regional climate that will support the current peace efforts. We asked for set dates when we could be received. We decided that a delegation led by myself would travel to Kenya despite the border dispute.

What happened was that our visit to Kenya also included Tanzania, which we visited and informed of the developments in the peace talks. While on our way to Ethiopia, after which we were heading for Kenya, we were surprised to receive an excuse from Kenya saying it was unwilling to receive the Sudanese delegation.

Sudan will continue its efforts to establish good-neighborliness in the region. In my belief, Kenya's behavior could in many cases be held against Kenya to the benefit of Sudan.

Cited Further on Relations

NC1005141089 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 May (MENA)—Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, Sudan's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi will visit Cairo soon.

He said that no person in either of the two countries can bypass their eternal relations because they are based on economic, cultural, social, and political interests, and none of these interests has been affected by any transient differences at the political level.

In an interview with AKHIR SA'AH magazine published today, the Sudanese deputy prime minister and foreign minister stressed that Sudan will not serve Libya's causes against Egypt. He added that Sudan is serving Egyptian-Sudanese relations in the interests of both countries.

He described the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council, the Arab Maghreb Union, and before them the Gulf Cooperation Council as proof of the Arab nation's vitality. He underlined Sudan's support for these groupings and said that the reason for Sudan's delay in joining any of them is that it must first put its own house in order and achieve national unity.

Al-Husayn labeled as untrue the reports about his country's involvement in the recent coup attempt in Chad. He said that Sudan has given the right of political asylum to a number of Chadians who have crossed the borders into Sudan on the basis of international norms.

Regarding the dispute with Kenya, he said that the problem is one of borders, and specifically a triangle on the borders. He said that this triangle belongs to Sudan according to the internationally recognized maps which are now kept in all international establishments, while Kenya has changed the maps of the borders between the two countries and included this triangle in its territories.

Al-Husayn expressed optimism about holding a meeting soon between the ministerial peace committee he chairs and the movement led by rebel John Garang in southern Sudan in order to achieve security, peace, and stability in this region.

Western Sahara

Abdelaziz Attends National Council Session

NC1005181289 Algiers APS in English 1330 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Liberated Territories, 10 May (APS)—The Sahrawi National Council (CNS) met on last Monday in an extraordinary session in the presence of Mohamed Abdelaziz, SADR [Saharan Arab Democratic Republic] president, Polisario Front secretary general, a communique from the Sahrawi Ministry of Information reported on Wednesday.

The communique stated that the National Council held on this occasion drew the attention of all the parliamentarians through the world on the situation of Sahrawi populations in SADR occupied territories.

The communique of the Sahrawi Ministry of Information indicated that the Sahrawi National Council launched an urgent appeal to all the peace loving forces to invite the Moroccan Government to answer the spirit of OAU-UN peace initiative backed up by the SADR people and government.

Kuwait

Further on Yugoslav Foreign Minister's Visit

Meets Amir, Heir Apparent

JN1005120689 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1053 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 May (KUNA)—Budimir Loncar, SFRY federal secretary for foreign affairs, met here today with Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad, the amir of Kuwait, and Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, heir apparent and prime minister.

The Yugoslav foreign secretary arrived here last night on a 1-day visit at the invitation of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN1005133789 Kuwait KUNA in English 1239 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Kuwait, May 10 (KUNA)—Visiting Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar Wednesday met here with Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmed.

Following the meeting, Shaykh Sabah told reporters that the two sides reviewed several issues in the agenda of the upcoming summit of the Non-Aligned Movement [NAM], scheduled to be held in Belgrade next September and related arrangements to the summit meetings.

The talks also tackled bilateral relations and means of strengthening them in various fields. Shaykh Sabah added.

For his part, the Yugoslav foreign minister expressed his "happiness" over the visit and meeting with h.h. [his highness] the amir, h.h. the crown prince and Premier Shaykh Said al-'Abdallah and for the talks he held with Shaykh Sabah.

He told KUNA that his talks with the Kuwaiti officials were "frank and cordial" and covered bilateral ties and means of exploring new fields of cooperation between the two countries.

NAM's role toward current international issues and preparations for the upcoming Belgrade summit were also reviewed, Loncar said, asserting the two countries views were identical toward the issues discussed.

There is no disagreement on the importance of reactivating the Non-Aligned Movement and revising its stances toward current international issues, Loncar said.

He praised Arab countries role within the framework of NAM, particularly a number of those countries were founding members for the movement.

Contributions of Arab countries in boosting the movement role were and still effective and major contributions, Loncar said.

He described Kuwaiti-Yugoslav relations as "excellent".

The meeting was attended by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and Director of the Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister's Office 'Abdallah al-'Abd-Al-Razzaq in addition to Yugoslav Ambassador to Kuwait Hasan Dervishbegovic.

The Yugoslav foreign minister, who arrived here last night on a one-day visit to Kuwait, is expected to leave later this evening.

Departs 10 May

JN1005193989 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 May (KUNA)—SFRY Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar left the country this evening after a 1-day visit. [passage omitted]

Oman

Information Minister on Tornado Deal, Arab Issues

JN1005165089 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 9 May 89 pp 1, 22

[By 'Abdallah al-Shiti]

[Text] Omani Information Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rawwas has said that the visit to Kuwait on Sunday by Sultan Qabus bin Sa'id at the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah will strengthen fraternal relations between the two sisterly countries.

He added that the visit will benefit the Gulf Cooperation Council and give momentum to inter-Arab relations.

Al-Rawwas noted that the two leaders' meeting is very important in light of the two leaders' desire to achieve comprehensive peace, stability, and prosperity in the region.

The Omani minister said that the decision by Oman to cancel the deal on the British Tornado aircraft does not have any political implications; the whole issue is economic and commercial. The decision was made in light of priorities dictated by the petroleum and financial situation.

The Omani minister praised the efforts exerted by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister, foreign minister, and chairman of the six-man Arab committee, to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

He praised his statement in which he said that there is no magic wand to resolve the Lebanese crisis; there must be strong cooperation with the parties to the Lebanese crisis to enable the Lebanese resolve their issue, which constitutes a deep wound in the Arab fold.

Al-Rawwas noted that great hopes are pinned on the results of the emergency of the Arab summit to be held in Morocco this month. He added that Oman hopes that the Arab leaders will concentrate on resolving problems and ending disputies.

The Omani information minister praised the experiment of the Arab councils. He said that these councils constitute important factors to mobilize Arab efforts, curb fragmentation, and achieve a high level of coordination and understanding among the Arabs.

Al-Rawwas said that the Palestinian peace initiative produced a very important step represented by the French president's meeting with Yasir 'Arafat and many states' recognizing the Palestinian state.

The Omani information minister affirmed that Egypt can neither be separated from the Arabs, nor can the Arabs be separated from Egypt. He said that the emergency summit in Morocco will place Egypt's return to the Arab League at the top of its agenda.

Saudi Arabia

Paper Urges 'Pressure' on Lebanese Parties

NC1005152589 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Commenting on the Lebanese crisis, the AL-YAWM newspaper says that every Arab feels pain at the hardship which Lebanon and the Lebanese are suffering as a result of their overwhelming crisis.

AL-YAWM adds that the Lebanese care more about their country than others do. If matters are left to them, without any foreign intervention, they will succeed in resolving this complex riddle because they know more about its secrets and implications, the paper says.

Foreign intervention, however, has complicated numerous issues and distorted many possibilities for attaining comprehensive agreement among the conflicting parties. AL-YAWM asserts that the Arab nation's enemies are the first to benefit from any dispute over any Arab territory, both in Lebanon and elsewhere.

The paper says that this is a fact that everyone understands. It asks why there should be insistence on keeping Lebanon torn apart, riddled with disputes and foreign interventions.

All possible ways of rescuing Lebanon have failed, the paper adds. Lebanon is now isolated from the outside world now that its main communications centers have been destroyed.

The Arabs are left with no other recourse but to exert pressure on all those who are trying to obstruct the efforts to save Lebanon from destruction and ruin.

United Arab Emirates

Paper Criticizes U.S. 'Anti-Arab Stands'

JN1005184389 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 9 May 89 p 1

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] Yesterday, two U.S. Congressional committees took two hostile anti-Arab steps, which will be added to the record of hostile U.S. and Western anti-Arab stands which are directed against the Arab struggle for their rights and occupied territory and their effort to maintain their strength by obtaining the weapons necessary to build a military force corresponding to the age and the threat that surrounds them.

One of the Congressional committees resolved to continue the ban on sales of the "Stinger" missile to the Arab Gulf states, with the exception of Oman and Bahrain. The committee was not satisfied with this.

To make things worse, it took a clearly hostile stand against Jordan. It wanted to couple providing arms to Jordan with a "public" recognition of the Israeli enemy.

Of course, the committee did this without paying attention to Israeli acts that are permanently hostile to Jordan such as the provocative, sensational allegations against Jordan made by that terrorist Sharon and other senior Zionist officials.

At the same time, another U.S. Congressional committee made a challenge on the most important issue for all Arabs—the Palestine question. It saw in Palestine's request to join WHO an occasion to adopt legislation that stops the payment of U.S. contributions to this organization and any other UN organization that accepts Palestine as a member.

The simplest comment on these stands is that if they could kick the Arabs out of this age, those people would have done so, but they cannot. The "Stinger" missile has its equivalents, and the international arms market is open to all. We Arabs will not fail to obtain the arms we want.

Regarding Palestine's membership in international organizations, we had hoped the United States would have learned from its defeat in the United Nations when it refused to grant the Palestinian president an entry visa.

Then, the United Nations moved outside the United States in a resolution that dealt a sharp blow to the diplomacy of the superpower.

Probably, the WHO situation will be a similar blow, from which Washington may benefit and learn the lesson.

King Husayn, Delegation Arrive on Visit 10 May

JN1005165389 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 10, INA—King Husayn of Jordan and his wife Queen Nur al-Husayn arrived in Baghdad today.

An official welcome was accorded to the Jordanian monarch on his arrival in which President Saddam Husayn took part.

Also present to welcome the Jordanian monarch were members of the Revolution Command Council Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy premier, Mr. Taha Muhyi al-Din, vice president, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier, and foreign minister and Mr. Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, and the ministers.

During his visit to Iraq, the Jordanian monarch is accompanied by a top-level delegation comprising Prince Faysal bin al-Husayn, Sharif Zayd bin Shakir, prime minister, Dhuqan al-Hindawi, head of the Royal Court, 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, political adviser to the king, Marwan al-Qasim, deputy premier and foreign minister and 'Amir Khammash, special counsellor to the king.

Offers Condolences, Departs

JN1005192189 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn bin Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan left Baghdad this evening following an approximately 5-hour visit.

His majesty the king was accorded an official farewell ceremony led by His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn. His excellency the president hugged His Majesty King Husayn at the ramp of the special plane of his majesty the king. Then, he shook hands with Her Majesty Queen Nur al-Husayn and the accompanying delegation, wishing them safe return by with God's care.

Then, Her Majesty Queen Nur al-Husayn shook hands with the women on hand to see her off.

Also present to see His Majesty King Husayn off were Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council [RCC] member and first deputy prime minister; and Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; RCC members; cabinet ministers; the Jordanian ambassador and Jordanian Embassy staff in Baghdad.

His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn had earlier met with his majesty the king at the latter's place of residence where his majesty the king offered his condolences and consolation to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn on the death of the late Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, on behalf of the Jordanian Government and the fraternal Jordanian people.

During the meeting, his majesty the king touched on the unforgettable traits of the deceased and affirmed that Arab generations will proudly remember the feats of heroism inscribed by the deceased in the epic for defending the eastern flank of the Arab nation.

The king reiterated that the values, principles, and ideals cherished by the deceased and for which he struggled will remain immortal within the conscience and heart of every zealous Arab. He added that the Arab nation lost him.

However, he said that it reserves a place for him within its conscience and heart. He went on to say that the deceased was a leader whose determination, resolve, intelligence, and stoicism were demonstrated in combat arenas under the most difficult circumstances.

He was a fluttering banner under which blessed heroes found shade when they undertook to defend the homeland and its just cause, the king said.

His majesty the king affirmed that Jordan was deeply shocked by this incident, which left a deep crack of grief and pain in the heart.

Concluding, the king beseeched Almighty God to strengthen the patience of His Excellency President leader Saddam Husayn, the deceased's comrade-in-arms, to bestow patience and solace upon the noble family of the deceased and upon his relatives, to spare Iraq and its people all evils, to envelop the deceased with His mercy and acceptance, to take him within the convoys of martyrs and righteous men who find shade under the canopy of the sepulcher of Almighty God, and to make this saddening event an end to all grief. May God accept our prayers, the king implored.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, RCC member, deputy prime minister, and foreign minister; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and military industrialization; and the Jordanian ambassador in Baghdad.

For the fraternal Jordanian side, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying his majesty the king: Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn; Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, prime minister; Dhuqan al-Hindawi, chief of the Royal Court; 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, political adviser to the king; Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; 'Amir Khammash, special adviser to his majesty the king.

Oil Minister Cited on OAPEC Kuwait Meeting

JN1005135789 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May. 10, INA—Iraq participates with the 42nd meeting of the Ministerial Council for the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC) due in Kuwait next Saturday for three days.

Mr. 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim, Iraqi oil minister told the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY that the mentioned meeting is held at the request of Iraq to get Egypt back to the membership of the organization to participate once again completely in its activities.

The minister added that the meeting also will discuss a number of issues concerning the [word indistinct] measures, professional activities and the ratification on its final budget.

The meeting also will discuss activities of Arab Oil Institution for Training and the activities of the organization's jurisdicational committee on solvng the problems that may occur between the organization's countries as well as studying the preparations on holding the fifth Arab energy conference due in Amman.

He added that the Executive Office of the organization will hold preparatory meetings before the Ministerial Council meetings to prepare a program of the subjects which would be discussed during the expected meeting.

It's worth mentioning that the oil minister had sent a letter in January of this year to Mr. Man'i Sa'id al-'Utaybah, oil and mineral wealth minister of the United Arab Emirates in his capacity as chairman of the Organization Ministerial Council's current session asking to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the return of Egypt to the membership of the organization and its companies and establishments.

U.S. Stand on WHO-Palestine Issue Criticized

JN1105095389 Baghdad INA in English 0925 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Baghdad, May 11, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said the United States is pursuing a policy based on threat and blackmail to prevent Palestine from occupying its natural position as a full member of the World Health Organization (WHO).

A daily commentary here today said that the United States is performing all its pressure to keep Palestine away from international fora and threats (WHO) with suspending its current contribution because it is aware that the organization is free from the hegemony of the American veto...The American political terrorism would be in vain since Palestine would not back down.

AL-THAWRAH affirmed that the United States is no more capable of denying existence of the Palestine Liberation Organization by neglecting full recognition to the rights of the Palestine people and the PLO...its recognition of the PLO is not complete and that its dialogue with the organization is carried out on ambassadorial level.

Concluding, the daily stressed that Palestine would maintain its effective political presence in the international arena through support of the Arab nation and majority of world countries.

Further Reportage on Shamir's Hospitalization

'Tiredness' Cited as Reason

TA1005154589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1530 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir is still hospitalized in Hadassah 'En-Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. The prime minister will probably be released tonight or tomorrow morning.

Sources close to Yitzhaq Shamir have released the following details concerning the circumstances of his hospitalization: He was hurt in his left cheek, probably last night.

Despite that, he continued his work schedule until this afternoon, when he was hospitalized for tests on his doctor's advice. Our correspondent Yaron Toren further reports the sources' remarks that another reason for the hospitalization is the tiredness the prime minister has suffered recently.

Shamir Feeling 'Very Well'

TA1005171489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who is hospitalized at Hadassah 'En-Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem, will be released within 1 or 2 days. It has been learned that Mr Shamir is feeling very well and has already begun working while in the hospital.

The hospital authorities have said that it was decided to hospitalize the prime minister for tests after he felt weak and very tired.

Aide on Shamir's Condition

TA1005184989 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 May 89

[Interview with Avi Pazner, Prime Minister Shamir's media adviser, by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir—live]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] After complaining of weakness, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir was hospitalized this afternoon at Hadassah 'En-Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem. Consequently, his participation in ceremonies scheduled for tonight was canceled. We have Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, with us in the studio. Good evening, Mr Pazner.

[Pazner] Good evening.

[Ahime'ir] You have visited the prime minister. How is he and what is his condition?

[Pazner] I visited the prime minister twice today. He is very well, and his mood is excellent.

[Ahime'ir] What does the prime minister suffer from?

[Pazner] Look, he complained of tiredness and weakness, and his physicians decided to hospitalize him for tests. I have spoken with two of his physicians: Professor Pinhas, Hadassah 'En-Kerem director general; and Internal Ward Director Professor Stein. They hope to complete the tests within 1 or 2 days and then to release the prime minister.

[Ahime'ir] When the prime minister attended the Bible contest today, an injury near his left—if I am not mistaken—eye was visible. Is there any connection between this injury near the prime minister's eye and the weakness from which he suffers?

[Pazner] I do not know. I told him he had some sort of a scratch, or something similar to a scratch, under his eye, and I asked him whether it caused him pain. He said he hardly feels it. I do not know whether there is any connection between this thing and his hospitalization.

[In accompanying video footage, Prime Minister Shamir, wearing glasses with polarized lenses, is shown addressing a 10 May meeting at a center for new immigrants. About 1 inch to the right and below his right eye, not his left, is a red spot about the size of a quarter.]

In any event, I only know that he is feeling well and that he is working. Today he received all the cables. When I told him that many citizens sent him regards on the radio, he asked for a radio set to hear that. He also asked for a television set. He is working. He asked for a telephone to be installed...

[Ahime'ir, interrupting] Will he be released within 1 or 2 days?

[Pazner] The physicians have said they hope to release him within 1 to 2 days.

[Ahime'ir] Thank you very much, Avi Pazner, and our wishes for the prime minister's recovery.

Shamir 'Keen To Return' to Work

TA1105104889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 11 May 89

[Telephone conversation between Arye Golan in the studio and Rina Matzliah at Hadassah-'En Kerem Hospital in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Matzliah] We have been told very little about the prime minister's state of health. We mainly hear the words fatigue and weakness, and that that is the reason that the prime minister has been hospitalized. He is also at this very hour undergoing medical tests.

Avi Pazner, and Yosi Ahime'ir, members of the prime minister's bureau, held a work session with the prime minister in his hospital room today. They advised those who want to visit Shamir not to do so in order to enable him to rest and undergo the required medical tests.

That is why he had no visitors today. Yesterday, on the other hand, the prime minister was visited by Ministers Meridor and Arens. There were, however, several Knesset members who came to the hospital yesterday, but were not allowed to enter his room.

The prime minister's room is situated at the end of the corridor on the ward. It is isolated and guarded. His wife, Shulamit Shamir, spends most of the time at his bedside. She also brought him lunch from home today.

The prime minister, however, usually eats hospital food, I was told here. I was also told by close associates that he is keen to return to work in his office.

[Prof Yehezqel Stein, Shamir's personal doctor, said on Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 11 May that "The prime minister feels well. He slept very well last night. He is concluding a series of tests, and there are plans to send him home tomorrow."]

[Golan] Rina, we heard from Prof Stein that the prime minister is slated to be released from hospital tomorrow, is that correct?

[Matzliah] It is still not clear if the prime minister will be released.

Shamir Discusses Election Plan, European Role

PM1105095689 Copenhagen BERLINGSKE TIDENDE in Danish 9 May 89 pp 1-2 (MAGASIN section)

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Hans Dam and Lars Kjolbye: "Western Europe Has Fallen Into the PLO's Trap"]

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, 2 May—[Passage omitted] The 73-year-old Yitzhaq Shamir is now into his 3d year of leading Israel's broad coalition, which is supported by Likud and the Labor Party. Shamir is leader of the conservative wing. He heads his country during one of the many difficult and critical phases that Israel has been through since the establishment of the Jewish state in 1948.

While the sound of the dispersing sirens died away, Yitzhaq Shamir looked up, put his newspapers to one side, and readied himself for the interview with BERLINGSKE TIDENDE. He rose nimbly and strode purposefully to his usual place at the corner of the small coffee table in the prime minister's office, where he began to talk about his main topic—his four-point plan for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

He seemed optimistic, although the prospects of implementing the plan do not seem immediately to be the best at present. But he has a strong faith, even though he knows himself that more is needed:

"We are now working out the details of the plan and they will soon be ready on our side, but we need a negotiating partner, indeed, many partners to get it to succeed. The Palestinians must be involved, but not just them. We would also like to have Jordan involved—and Egypt, if it wants. And we need U.S. help."

[Interviewer] Could your search for partners also take in Western Europe?

[Shamir] Western Europe: I don't rightly know. The majority of countries support the idea of a Palestinian state. For that reason, I do not know whether there is a foundation. I know that there are nuances. There is a difference between Greece and Italy and countries in the north—Britain, West Germany, and Denmark—but most countries have spoken out against our peace plan.

[Interviewer] And so there are absolutely no European countries that could take part in the peace process?

[Shamir] Europe should talk less about the PLO and more about peace negotiations. 'Arafat's visit to Paris is seen as a major victory, and the visit incites the Palestinians to further unrest.

[Interviewer] Does Israel now feel more isolated than it did in the past?

[Shamir] We are not isolated. We have many friends. And I believe that the immediate future will show that we have many more than most people believe. Israel cannot exist as an independent state together with a Palestinian state on the small amount of land that we have at our disposal here. That is impossible. So the people who support a Palestinian state are working against Israel's existence. [Shamir ends]

Shamir became heated. His face opened up. He leaned forward in his chair and spoke energetically and without hesitation. There is no doubt in his mind. No hesitation. It is a matter of life and death for Israel, and here there is no room for compromise or settlement with anyone about anything. He would dearly like peace, but peace must not be established at the expense of Israel's vital interests. For then peace would be a threat. Israel has been attacked four times and won all four wars convincingly—for Israel can only lose a war once!

[Interviewer] But after the promised local elections on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip, do you think that you will find local partners—perhaps also partners dominated by the PLO?

[Shamir] I do not think that the PLO will participate in the elections, because the organization is opposed to our idea of local elections. But before the elections, we have to reach agreement on the tasks that those elected will have. First, an interim agreement on self-government must be entered into, and later—after around 5 years—negotiations on a permanent status for the areas. The aim of the second phase will be to achieve an arrangement acceptable to both sides. The Palestinians must also agree to end the intifadah (uprising).

[Interviewer] But there is still a lack of support. People are still talking more about the PLO than about your plan.

[Shamir] That is the trap. If only Western Europe would talk less about the PLO and more about negotiations and elections, it would be much more helpful and realistic. We cannot accept talk of a Palestinian state. [Shamir ends]

Here Shamir used a diplomatic expression. There is no doubt in his mind. Even more lines appear on his face when the PLO and 'Arafat are mentioned. But he chooses his words with care. High-ranking officials around him say things straight out: A number of West European countries are currently engaged in a love affair with the PLO. Incomprehensible.

Does 'Arafat really have sex appeal? it is asked. The humor can be coarse and wicked, but that is how things look from Jerusalem. Here people shake their heads—in resignation, but not in surrender.

[Interviewer] Could a Palestinian state really threaten Israel? Would it not be small and weak?

[Shamir] Small and weak! Not at all. It would be a base for aggression against Israel. The formation of a Palestinian state would be a permanent threat to our own security, and that we cannot accept. Nor would such a state be able to absorb all the Palestinian refugees. There is not room. The result would be frustration and bitterness, and this would be directed against Israel.

And in that situation, the PLO would continue the struggle against us together with other Arab counties, such as Syria, for example. You cannot ask us to go back to the borders we had before the 1967 war. We have nothing to negotiate with the PLO.

[Interviewer] But the United States is now talking to the PLO. Is this not a help to Israel?

[Shamir] No, it doesn't help. On the contrary. I take the view that the Bush administration's talks with the PLO are harmful. We told the U.S. Administration that long ago. Nothing will come out of these negotiations. But the United States has articulated the principles that it will not accept a Palestinian state and that it will not demand that Israel withdraw to the borders from before the 1967 war. That would create instability.

[Interviewer] But is the present situation not unstable?

[Shamir] No, that's not the same thing. Our army is in the area now. It is true that we are faced with uprisings, but there is no suggestion of a real war. There is no danger of war at present. We are not being attacked with missiles.

[Interviewer] But we see stonethrowing Palestinians on television every evening...

[Shamir] Yes, but a stone is not like a missile, even though it can look hard. And one cannot view everything from the viewpoint of world public opinion. It is also a fact that a Palestinian state would put the 700,000 Arab inhabitants of Israel under unbearable pressure. In several regions of northern Israel there is a Palestinian majority even now—in Galilee, for example—and nothing will be able to stop them from demanding that their regions be incorporated into a Palestinian state.

Israel will not be in a position to defend itself on all these fronts. The problem is not just military. There would be subversive activity. The situation would become very difficult and very dangerous. Israel will become a new Lebanon.

[Interviewer] Will you give the Soviet Union a role in the peace process?

[Shamir] As you know, the Soviet Union did not take part in the successful Camp David agreement. And as long as the Soviet Union fails to give full diplomatic recognition to the state of Israel, the country is not qualified to participate as a partner in the peace process.

[Interviewer] 'Arafat has declared that he is ready to travel to Jerusalem to meet you. Who would be the loser if such a meeting were to take place?

[Shamir] I have no need of him. If such a meeting took place it would be a sign that we accepted the PLO's minimum demand for the formation of a Palestinian state.

[Interviewer] What if 'Arafat changed his position?

[Shamir] But he cannot. The demand is the basis for his existence. It is the main element in his policies and in his ideology. Without a Palestinian state, he has no political raison d'etre.

[Interviewer] Why not surprise the world? Have you ever thought of inviting 'Arafat yourself?

[Shamir] (Shamir's voice deepened. His patience was being tried.) We do not entertain such ideas. For if we did, it would be tantamount to capitulation and surrender, and we are not made like that.

[Interviewer] What, in the final analysis, is the most important thing when it comes to judging Israel—what is shown in the media and on television or real life?

[Shamir] Of course, there can be no doubt. The most important thing is actual events, and the media should reflect these better.

[Interviewer] Are the media here in the satellite age developing into an upper class in relation to politicians? They show a smiling Gorbachev, a smiling 'Arafat...

[Shamir] Things like that are effective for a limited period. But you cannot implement perestroyka with a smile. You can create a mood, but not facts.

[Interviewer] Can you alter the mood of the media?

[Shamir] At the moment, the media are against us. That is a fact. Almost all of them support the PLO. I do not know why. They take all of 'Arafat's lies as proof. But it is very easy to see that what he says—in France, for example—is lies. Everything. Bluff. But they like that in France. I wonder about it, but I also believe that it will come to an end. Don't worry...

[Interviewer] You have said that 'Arafat changes his image according to where his travels take him. Might not Israel need a new image?

[Shamir] We could do with a better image. Or I would rather put it like this: Perhaps we deserve a better image. We are the only democracy in this part of the world. We have pluralism and a sea of differing views. That is something that no other Middle Eastern country has. [passage omitted]

Arens Defers Baker Proposals on Elections
TA1105050089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The United States does not rule out the possibility of allowing Palestinians outside the administered territories from participating in elections being proposed by Prime Minister Shamir.

This was stated in a letter by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to Jerusalem several days ago.

Foreign Minister Arens has already replied to the Baker letter and emphasized there is no possibility of discussing details of the elections without them being completed in Jerusalem.

Baker's aide, Dennis Ross will arrive in Israel on Saturday to brief officials on Baker's talks in Moscow.

Draft Does 'Not Appear To Meet U.S. Demands'
TA1105085689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 May 89 p 1, 12

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] Israel's draft peace proposals do not appear to meet U.S. demands on elections in the territories, as stipulated in a letter sent by U.S. Secretary of State Baker 10 days ago, sources in Jerusalem said last night.

The draft document, which, before Prime Minister Shamir went into hospital yesterday, was scheduled to be brought to the cabinet on Sunday, completely avoids the issue of international supervision of the elections and the participation of East Jerusalem residents in the proposed poll. It reiterates Israel's objections to the establishment of a Palestinian state and to negotiations with the PLO, and does not specify what kind of final settlement Israel is striving for. [passage omitted]

The Israeli draft peace proposals specify that talks on the final status of the territories will begin a full three years after the autonomy is implemented—and not, as stated in the Camp David Accords, that they will start "no later" than the third year, sources in Jerusalem said last night.

Well-placed sources said that the participation of East Jerusalem residents is now emerging as the single most divisive issue between Shamir and the U.S., on the one hand, and between Shamir and Labour leader Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin on the other.

Likud sources in Jerusalem said last night that Rabin's proposals for an "absentee" East Jerusalem vote—by which residents would be allowed to vote in other West Bank towns—addresses only the issue of the voters, and not the candidates. Jerusalem-based Palestinian leaders such as Faysal al-Husayni and Hanna Sinyurah would be elected, according to Rabin's scheme, and would thus represent East Jerusalem, the sources said.

The sources said that Shamir's opposition to the participation of East Jerusalem residents appears to have hardened in recent weeks, not least because of intense opposition within the Likud and to its right. They said that Shamir would probably agree to some form of international supervision—but would not yield on the East Jerusalem matter. [passage omitted]

Reports on Baker Letter Termed 'Distorted'
TA1105105489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, has described this morning's reports that Secretary of State Baker criticized the Israeli draft initiative as distorted.

An American diplomatic source also expressed scepticism about the reports as they appeared in the Israeli press this morning. Jack Katzenell reports:

The director general of the Prime Minister's Office, Yosi Ben-Aharon, told me a few minutes ago that Secretary of State James Baker's letter was intended to sum up the prime minister's recent visit to Washington, which the United States viewed as a successful visit.

Ben-Aharon said the United States could not express disagreement with a draft Israeli peace initiative because it has not yet been completed, nor has it been submitted to the United States.

An American diplomatic source reacted in exactly the same way when I spoke to him an hour ago.

According to another official source in Jerusalem, Secretary Baker expressed dissatisfaction with the Israeli initiative in his letter, because the initiative does not address the issue of whether the Arabs of East Jerusalem should take part in the elections, nor does it accept the principle of territories for peace, nor does it relate to the nature of the permanent settlement.

However, a source close to the prime minister told me that East Jerusalem was not raised in the secretary of state's letter, and the expression "territories in exchange for peace" was not used either.

This does not mean that the United States does not have its differences with the prime minister on these issues, as well as the question of international observers and the nature of the interlock between the interim and the permanent settlements. However, last night's leak to the media here in Jerusalem is described by the prime minister's aides as tendentious and distorted.

Peres To Present $3 Billion Aid Request To U.S.

TA1105113989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Tomorrow the finance minister will present the U.S. ambassador with Israel's aid request for the coming year. The total is to the tune of $3 billion, of which $1.8 billion is military assistance.

The director general of the Treasury will leave for the United States at the end of the month to explain the details of the aid request to the administration.

Peres Says Labor Party Favors Land for Peace

TA1105114489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Shim'on Peres said that he and his party are prepared for an arrangement based on the principle of giving up territories in return for peace, even if it does not involve all the territories. There are those who think differently, Minister Peres said.

The current problem, however, is not a permanent solution, but the first step; on that we can work jointly with the Likud. The aim of the first step is negotiations with the Palestinians. We prefer a body chosen by the people, and not one chosen arbitrarily by events.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Mr Peres made the remarks to a delegation of young presidents of foreign companies visiting Israel.

2 New Settlements Inaugurated in West Bank

TA1005174589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Two new settlements, which are part of the government coalition agreement, were inaugurated in Judaea and Samaria today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that west of Ramallah, a cornerstone of the settlement of 'Ofarim was laid, while in Gush 'Ezyon the settlement of Zoref was inaugurated. Zoref is already inhabited by 10 families.

Thousands of people, including Ministers Sharon, Hammer, and Sciaki, attended the inauguration ceremonies.

Egypt Wants To See Full Details of Shamir Plan

TA1005172489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Egypt is now interested in obtaining the full details of Prime Minister Shamir's political initiative. Upon his return from Cairo, Ambassador Basyuni told our correspondent David Essing that his government wishes to see Shamir's proposal for elections in the territories in the framework of a full plan. This is the only way to make progress toward a comprehensive peace, he said.

According to Ambassador Basyuni, the parties in the region are now closer than ever to peace.

IDF Commander: Syria Readying for War

TA1105094389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 May 89 p 2

[Report on "Independence Day interview" with Major General Yosi Peled, commander of the Northern Command, by David Rudge and David Landaudate; date and place not given]

[Text] Syria is preparing to wage war alone against Israel, but that does not mean war is inevitable, according to OC [Officer in Command] Northern Command Aluf [Major General] Yosi Peled.

On the contrary, Peled is optimistic that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will ultimately opt for talks rather than confrontation.

He is also confident about the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] ability to combat and defeat the Syrians, should Al-Asad make the mistake of choosing the military option.

The general spoke about the Syrian threat, the prospects for peace, the affects of the intifadah [uprising] and the ongoing terror menace emanating from Lebanon in a wide-ranging interview with THE JERUSALEM POST for Independence Day.

"When dealing with a subject such as Syria, we have to examine two aspects—whether the Syrians have the motivation (to go to war) and whether they have the capability to put this motivation, if it exists, into operation," said Peled.

"The motivation is definitely there and they are talking about it. The Syrians regard the Golan Heights as belonging to them, and are not, it seems, altogether certain that they can get it back through negotiation, and therefore there exists the military option."

There have been reports that the nature of Syrian army exercises have recently switched from defensive tactics to practising offensive maneuvers. Were the reports correct and, if so, how did Peled react to them?

"If you ask me whether Syria is preparing for war, the answer is yes. Al-Asad is preparing the military option," replied Peled.

"Syria is investing enormous amounts (of money, time and energy) in building up its armed forces and you have only to look at the character of their training to see the direction in which they are going.

"I don't want, however, to suggest, even remotely, that there will be a war (with Syria). There is a worldwide trend at the moment towards resolving problems which indicates that countries are tired of conflict."

He cited as examples the ending of the Iran-Iraq war, the Russian withdrawal from Afghanistan, the marked reduction of American interference in Nicaragua and the Cuban pullout from Angola.

"Now the Americans are talking to the PLO and there is talk of a diplomatic process in our region, which hopefully will come to something," said Peled.

"This year, in my opinion, the Syrians will have to decide whether to participate in this process or torpedo it."

Referring to the terror threat emanating from Lebanon, Peled maintained that attempts by Palestinian gangs to try and infiltrate Israel would continue—despite the PLO's peace overtures. "What occurred last year has happened again this year. There are peaks and troughs. What causes the Palestinians to act is the very fact that Israel exists," said Peled.

Overall, Peled exuded confidence in the IDF's ability to handle the day-to-day incidents in Lebanon, ensure the security of the northern settlements and be prepared to deal with the greater danger of a potential war with Syria.

National Flag Flown at Embassy Building in Warsaw

TA1005140389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] An Israeli flag was flown this morning over the Israeli Embassy building in Warsaw, the first time this has happened since Poland severed diplomatic relations with Israel in the wake of the 6-Day War.

Our correspondent Eliyahu Zehavi reports that Ambassador Mordekhay Paltzur, head of the Israeli representation in Warsaw, addressed those attending the ceremony, who included 180 Israeli youths touring World War II concentration camp sites in Poland. The ceremony was concluded with the Israeli national anthem.

Dignitaries Attend Reception

TA1105052789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The head of the Israeli interest section in Warsaw received about 400 diplomats and prominent Poles at his residence for Independence Day. They included 30 ambassadors, as well as the ambassadors of Egypt, Hungary, and Romania.

The Poles who attended were the Polish culture minister, the deputy foreign minister, the spokesman for President Jaruzelski, intellectuals, writers, and journalists.

Rabin: Generals Not To Talk of Political Solution

TA1105140689 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 11 May 89 p 1

[Report by Shmu'el Tal]

[Text] "The instructions issued by the political level for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] are clear. Let no man hide behind the claim that the policy is not understood. The policy according to which IDF instructions are issued aims at restoring calm in the territories. This is the mission." These remarks were made by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir when addressing General Staff generals on the eve of Independence Day.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the generals on the same occasion: "Stop apologizing all the time for what you are doing in the territories; more important, stop talking about political solutions."

Following remarks Rabin made last week, according to which the IDF has not fulfilled its tasks, the General Staff is considering a change in IDF deployment in the territories.

Popular Army Statement Cited on 'Uprising' Funds

JN1105100289 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] A statement by the party that calls itself the Palestinian Popular Army has said that Yasir 'Arafat has recently sent an inquiry committee, headed by Abu al-Hakam, to Jordan after millions of dollars earmarked to support the residents of the West Bank and Gaza have disappeared.

The statement said that the Fatah movement in the territories has recently received $200,000 on the condition that half of this sum be transferred to the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. But Fatah decided to keep the whole sum for itself.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine also received $200,000 on the condition that it transfers half of the sum to the communist party, but it also kept all the money for itself.

The statement wondered where the money provided by some Arab countries such as Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Libya to support the residents of the West Bank and Gaza goes. It pointed out that some PLO officials, which the statement described as opportunists and merchants of the cause, are embezzling large sums of this money.

Further on Incidents, Casualties in Territories

Soldier Returned to Jail

TA1005163189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] On the eve of Independence Day, Reservist 'Amit Lowenhoff was again jailed for his refusal to serve in the territories. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe notes that Lowenhoff was released from jail some 2 weeks ago after serving a prison term he had received for the same reason. He will stand trial at the beginning of next week.

IDF Uncovers 'Terrorist Squad'

TA1005191489 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] The security forces have uncovered a terrorist squad in Al-Duhayshah refugee camp that manufactured homemade weapons. One of the squad members was killed while putting together an improvised gun about 1 month ago.

In connection with this, the Israel Defense Forces spokesman this evening recalled that the camp residents contended that the man had been killed by IDF soldiers. It is now clear beyond any doubt that this was a false complaint.

Youth Killed in Clash With IDF

TA1005192689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] In the village of Al-Khidr, south of Bethlehem, an Arab youth was killed as he was about to hurl a Molotov cocktail at a military vehicle.

Our correspondent Arye Gus has learned from official military sources that Fa'id Isma'il Musa was with a group of masked youths who were planning to damage Israeli vehicles along the Jerusalem-Hebron road. An Israel Defense Forces unit arrived on the site to foil their plan. In the confrontation that ensued, one youth was shot dead while trying to throw a firebomb and another was injured.

West Bank Curfew Lifted

TA1105053989 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The closure imposed on Judaea and Samaria before Independence Day was lifted at midnight. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the curfews on 'Anabta and the Nur al-Shams refugee camp remain in force. The curfew imposed on the Gaza Strip 2 days ago continues.

Colonel Receives Reprimand

TA1105054189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Colonel Yehuda Me'ir, former commander of the Nabulus region, was sentenced to a severe reprimand in a disciplinary hearing in front of the Chief of Staff Dan Shomron.

The colonel was convicted of evading responsibility in connection with the intense clashes in Nabulus villages earlier this year. On orders of Colonel Me'ir, soldiers beat up villagers and in some cases broke their hands and legs.

2 Sentenced for Firebomb Attack

TA1105120889 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Two brothers from Abu-Tor were convicted of hurling a firebomb at policemen several weeks ago and sentenced to 3-year jail sentences. Nobody was hurt in the incident.

The judge, in sentencing, stressed that there is a dangerous escalation in terrorist methods. He said that it is the court's duty to make clear that anybody who carries out such attacks must be jailed for a long time.

1 Dies in Clash With IDF

TA1105142689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] A 17-year-old youth was killed in Hebron in a clash with IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers today. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF unit that was busy clearing roadblocks and rocks off the roads confronted a group of rioting youths. In the ensuing clash, one of the youths was killed. In the village of Bayta in Samaria an Arab youth was wounded in a clash with soldiers.

Tourism Shows 'Encouraging Signs of Recovery'

TA0905095189 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 May 89 p 10

[Report by Avi Temkin]

[Text] Tourism to Israel showed some encouraging signs of recovery in the first four months of the year, following the 1988 crisis triggered by the Palestinian uprising in the territories.

Seasonally adjusted figures published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed that the average level of tourists coming by air in January-April was 10 percent above the average for the last half of 1988.

Some 109,000 tourists arrived here in April, bringing the total to 378,000 since the beginning of the year. The bureau indicated that the number of incoming tourists was still 8 percent lower than that for the first four months of 1988 and 11 percent less than in January-April 1987.

April Figures Up 15 Percent

TA1105135989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 11 May 89 p 16

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] A 15-percent increase in tourism traffic to Israel was registered in April compared to last April's figures. The Ministry of Tourism reported 2 days ago that last month some 135,800 tourists arrived in Israel, while in April 1988 the number was 117,600.

Passover was in April this year, while Easter was in March. Last year both holidays occurred at the beginning of April, which resulted in an increase in tourism in March.

The number of tourists arriving by air increased by 9 percent, while the number of those arriving by sea increased by 29 percent. Another 15,300 tourists arrived through Tabah and the Sinai, which is an 80-percent increase over last year.

Balance of Payments Deficit Drops in 1988

TA0405075089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 May 89 p 8

[Report by economics editor Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Text] Israel's balance of payments deficit in goods and services fell almost $500 million [m] in 1988, to total $5.3 billion [b], compared to $5.8b. in 1987, the Central Bureau of Statistics announced yesterday. Most of the fall stemmed from a reduction in defence imports, which dropped from $2.44b in 1987 to $2.07b last year.

The country's total trade in goods and services climbed 6.5 percent last year to $35,652m., almost as much as the Gross National Product. Exports of goods and services amounted to $15,163m., while imports were $20,489m. compared to $13,828m. and $19,636m. respectively in 1987.

The trade deficit—which relates only to goods—was $3,145m last year, a drop of 18 percent from 1987's $3,831m. However the improvement in the civilian trade balance, which excludes defence imports, was a much higher 22.7 percent. The civilian trade deficit dropped last year to $1,075m, from $1,392m. in 1987, and compared to about $700m. in average in 1985-86.

Net transfer payments, most of which is U.S. aid, totalled $4,651m., a fall of 3.9 percent from 1987. Nevertheless, they covered more than 87 percent of the deficit in the balance of payments compared to 83 percent in the previous year. The rest was covered by capital flows and a fall in foreign currency reserves late in 1988, in anticipation of a devaluation.

The deficit in the services account grew by $205m. to $2,181m. in 1988. Significantly, the figures show that despite the big drop in the number of tourists visiting Israel because of the intifada [uprising], tourist revenues were stable at $1,343m., apparently because the tourism industry balanced the loss of revenues through charging higher prices.

Standard of Living Rises 'Only' 1.5 Percent

TA0505105389 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 May 89 p 16

[Report by economics editor Shlomo Ma'oz and Avi Temkin]

[Excerpt] The standard of living rose by only 1.5 percent last year, after a cumulative increase of about 20 percent in the previous two years.

Figures released yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics showed that private consumption spending rose in 1988 by 3 percent. After accounting for the increase in population, this translated into a 1.5 percent per capita rise. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew on 5 May in a report by 'Ofer Arian on page 3 notes that "a 15-percent drop in direct defense exports was registered in 1988. According to Central Bureau of Statistics data, these exports totaled only $2.1 billion."]

Wages of Workers From Territories Rise

TA0305133289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 3 May 89 p 16

[Report by Yehudit Winkler]

[Text] The real wages of workers from the territories rose last year by 20 percent compared to the 1986-1987 figures, while the number of organized workers among them rose by 12 percent. This was reported yesterday by Shlomo Amir, who served as the labor and social affairs minister's assistant for employment in the territories.

In a retirement party at the committee for affairs of workers from the territories held at the Histadrut building, Amir stated that due to the intifadah [uprising], a decrease averaging 8 percent in the number of laborers from the territories was posted in 1988. Today there are 45,000 organized workers from the territories registered at the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, while the number of those who are not organized is estimated at about 55,000.

About 800 workers from the territories who had accrued rights of at least 10 years of work retired and received pension money. Yitzhaq Gil'adi, the head of the committee, noted the Histadrut's satisfaction with the fact that all social rights given to all workers in the market are also given to laborers from the territories. Gil'adi also praised Amir for his work.

April Tax Drop Seen Reflecting Economy Slowdown

TA0305131089 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 3 May 89 p 8

[Report by economics editor Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Excerpts] Government tax collection recorded a sharp 10 percent drop in April, the Treasury announced yesterday, providing new evidence of the extent of the ongoing slowdown in the economy. But despite the poor tax revenue figures, figures published earlier in the week showed that the government succeeded in holding the April budget deficit to only NIS [New Israeli Shekels] 98 million [m].

The slump in tax revenues is another indicator of the worsening state of many sectors of the economy, a trend which has also shown up in higher unemployment, more bankruptcies, less imports and lower inflation.

The April figures show that the government collected a total of NIS 1.7 billion [b]. Of this, income tax provided about NIS 1b., which was a drop of 10 percent in real terms compared with the same month last year. This fall followed an increase of 7 percent in the first quarter of the year and a consistent rise in income tax revenues since 1985. [passage omitted]

The Custom and VAT [value-added tax] collected NIS 703m. last month, a drop of 13 percent compared with last April. This is still better than the sharp drop in the first quarter, when the fall was as sharp as 40 percent on import taxes, while local VAT showed no change. [passage omitted]

Car imports fell by 31.5 percent in April to 3,298. Since January the monthly average level of car imports has run at 3,300, compared with a monthly average of 8,200 last year.

Drug Seizures, Arrests Reported 1-6 May

TA0605061889

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 1 May 1989 reports that "thirty-two people suspected of involvement in drug trafficking, robberies, and other serious crimes were arrested in a large-scale police raid conducted this morning in the Sharon District. The operation came at the end of a long period during which detectives staked out a private house on 4 Mintz Street in Netanya, which was where the crimes were planned. Our correspondent Zohar Melamed points out that 27 other suspects were arrested last night in the Coastal Plain District in another operation, bringing the number of suspected drug dealers arrested in the last 24 hours in the central region to 59."

Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 1 May in a page A9 report by Roni Sofer reports that on 30 April the Beersheba District Court sentenced 26-year-old Keren Gris to 30 months in prison.

"She was convicted of agreeing to receive three parcels containing no less than 0.5 kg of heroin sent from The Netherlands and to hand them over to Mordekhay Shakhini, the suspected leader of the drug smuggling ring."

Hers is the first conviction in the large drug smuggling affair recently uncovered in Beersheba in which some 10 kg of heroin concealed in electrical appliances were smuggled from Europe into Israel.

Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 4 May in a page 12 report by Ya'aqov Friedler says that Haifa police detained a client "who was coming round to get 10 grams of heroin," and a drug dealer, "an ex-convict who was detained after 91 grams of heroin and 9,000 counterfeit dollars were discovered in his apartment."

King Husayn, Delegation Leave for Iraq 10 May

JN1005133989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Their Majesties King Husayn and Queen Nur left Amman for the Republic of Iraq this afternoon on a visit during which his majesty will offer condolences to His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and the family of the late Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister.

His majesty will also hold talks with President Saddam Husayn on many current Arab issues.

His majesty is accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn; Her Royal Highness Princess 'Alia; His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd bin Shakir and his wife; Dhuqan al-Hindawi, chief of the Royal Court; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, his majesty the king's political adviser; 'Amir Khammash, his majesty the king's personal adviser; and Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Their majesties were seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, and a number of senior officials.

Husayn, Party Return 10 May

JN1005192889 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] His majesty the king and Her Majesty Queen Nur and the accompanying delegation returned home this evening after a short visit to Iraq. During the visit, his majesty offered condolances to the Iraqi president, Mr Saddam Husayn, over the death of the Iraqi deputy commander of the Armed Forces and the minister of defense, General 'Adnan Khayrallah.

His majesty also offered condolances to the family of the late commander.

His majesty also held talks with President Saddam Husayn on Arab issues.

Upon departure from Baghdad, his majesty was accorded a farewell ceremony led by the president, Saddam Husayn.

Taking part in the ceremony were members of the Revolutionary Command Council, cabinet members, and the Jordanian ambassador to Iraq.

Upon arrival in Amman, their majesties were received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn, and senior government officials.

His majesty was accompanied on his visit by His Royal Highness Prince Faysal ibn al-Husayn; Her Highness Princess 'Alia; the prime minister, Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, and Mrs Shakir; the chief of the royal court; his majesty's political and private advisers; and the deputy premier and foreign minister.

King Husayn Pardons Detainees From April Riots

NC1005130989 Paris AFP in English 1240 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Amman, May 10 (AFP)—King Husayn ordered an amnesty Wednesday for all those arrested during last month's violent protests over price rises, Jordanian officials said.

They did not give the number of people to be released, but according to relatives and local residents, around 100 people were arrested in the protests that erupted April 18 in southern Jordan before spreading to areas near Amman. Relatives said most of those arrested were members of Jordan's outlawed Communist Party.

The unrest, which brought down the government of Zayd al-Rifa'i, left eight people dead and 83 wounded, according to official figures, as well as bringing down the government of Zayd al-Rifa'i.

Interior Minister on Detainees

JN1105065489 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 May 89 p 1

[By Sa'd al-Silawi]

[Text] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has stated that in implementation of His Majesty King Husayn's wish and supreme directives, all those who were detained during the recent incidents and disturbances will be released this morning, Thursday.

In an exclusive statement to SAWT AL-SHA'B, the deputy prime minister and interior minister pointed out that the date for holding parliamentary elections will be announced soon; and that arrangements for them are currently underway.

Answering another question, Masa'idah explained that reorganizations will take place in the Interior Ministry in harmony with the letter of designation and His Majesty King Husayn's directives.

Radio on Detainees, Arab Aid

JN1105125589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 May 89

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has stated to this station that 55 persons, who were detained by the authorities for their direct involvement in the incidents that took place in the southern and western parts of the country last month in protest against the high cost of living, were released today. Masa'idah added that the detainees were released on King Husayn's orders.

We have learned from a well-informed source that the persons who were held in precautionary detention during these events due to their affiliation with banned political parties have not yet been released.

Masa'idah said that his Ministry has begun to make the necessary arrangements to hold parliamentary elections as soon as possible. He expressed his hope that these elections will take place before the end of this year.

In another development, this station has learned from informed sources that Kuwait has offered $40 million support to Jordan and that Saudi Arabia has also promised to support the Jordanian treasury.

Optimism prevailed in the Jordanian capital that the Arab countries will pay Jordan the installments due in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions.

King Addresses Al-Salt Delegation 10 May

JN1005163489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] In a meeting with representatives of the city of Al-Salt who poured into the Royal Hashemite Court today, His Majesty King Husayn said: My meeting with you at the house of Jordan and the Jordanians is a meeting between brothers and a brother, a man who has led this life with his head held high, thanks to his belonging to you; a man who has attempted and will continue to attempt to translate what he feels of your ambitions and aspirations into reality and to serve our nation and future generations against all challenges and dangers.

His Majesty King Husayn added: I am with you under all circumstances and conditions. As an individual, I try to work with the image of this country—its steadfastness, its honesty, its Arabism, and the suffering and constancy of its proud and determined sons—fixed in my heart and conscience. Having you, I demonstrate my pride before the world and the entire universe.

Jordan has occupied a distinguished international position, given its size. The standing of Jordan is actually measured in terms of the resolve of its sons—the resolve based on awareness, sincerity, purity, and the gains and accomplishments that it has scored in spite of the most cruel challenges. All Jordanians have always been a source of inspiration for me.

I have always been proud of their Arabism, of the nobility of their descent, and of their honesty. Thus, during our odyssey together we have acquired freedom in decisionmaking and in safeguarding the trust in us, defending the flag and the nation, and standing alongside our brothers.

His majesty the king added: We continue to try to deal with all issues to the best of our ability so that we can overcome these difficulties and reach an ideal situation where everyone participates.

In this, we depend on our basic national resource—the individual: on his loyalty, awareness, and readiness to work, to strive, and to honor those who have sacrificed and endeavored before us, to perform his duties toward future free Arab generations on this good land.

His Majesty King Husayn continued: We all have to work together, have frank discussions on all issues and topics, cooperate to bring about improvements, and shoulder the responsibility together. We have previously experienced circumstances that have deprived us of parliamentary life.

We have undergone circumstances and confronted challenges that have deprived us of benefiting from this life—something that we have desired from the beginning. God willing, parliamentary life will be restored to Jordan soon.

His majesty said: The Jordanian citizen is free. He should exercise his responsibilities and understand the meaning of freedom of expression—a freedom from which he derives his ability to work and build—freedom with responsibility. We hope the dialogue will continue.

I hope this dialogue will lead to establishing and maintaining a national charter that controls the behavior of each one of us and enables everyone to exercise his rights so that this country becomes an example and model to be followed by all the brothers in the greater homeland.

His majesty said: Regarding what you have said about the question of a pardon at this blessed 'Id al-Fitr, which, praise be to God, constitutes a major tuning point and a new start, we have dealt with this issue and have decided to consider what happened a dark episode now in the past, which, God willing, will not come back. We will leave this dark episode behind and learn from it so that it will never be repeated, or allowed to happen again in the future.

His majesty the leader of the homeland said: If there are still some detainees, they are on their way to their families.

His Majesty King Husayn said: I am confident that no citizen in this homeland will, under any circumstances, accept our failure to act on the basis that we are Arabs or to act honestly so as to be faithful and honest to ourselves, because we are part of the Arab nation, to which we devote all our capabilities and resources.

His majesty added: We have experienced and continue to experience difficult circumstances. A rich man is the one who has self-respect. Despite all the challenges that have been imposed on us, we are dutybound to work in all fields to defend this land.

His Majesty King Husayn said: I thank you that you have always been my tribe and supporters, praise be to God. I thank you for your love, affection, support, and confidence throughout the long march. I hope you will convey my love, appreciation, and pride to all my kinfolk in Al-Salt. I thank this esteemed delegation for giving me the opportunity to ask you to convey my sentiments to the kinfolk and brothers.

Your speeches, which expressed your sentiments and those of AL-Salt and Jordan, are in fact an expression of the feelings of the kinfolk and brothers in the city of Al-Salt, the city of men, honor, and pride.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, his majesty the king's personal adviser, the chief chamberlain, and a number of officials.

Meanwhile, a number of Al-Salt citizens delivered speeches before His Majesty King Husayn in which they unanimously announced, along with the one Jordanian people, that their sole aim and purpose is allegiance to his majesty the king; and they made a pledge to maintain our homeland's strength and impregnability where the name of great Husayn is elevated, adherence to the entire Arab land is stressed, and our people's aspirations pursued in accordance with the plan set by His Majesty King Husayn, leader of Great Arab Revolt.

Crown Prince Discusses Riots, Other Issues

PM0905140789 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 May 89 p3

[Interview with Crown Prince Hasan by Zaki Musa in Amman; date not given]

[Text] [Musa] What, in your view, were the causes which made it necessary to change Zayd al-Rifa'i's cabinet?

[Hasan] There can be no doubt that the government submitted its resignation after the painful incidents as a result of which 9 citizens died and over 100 were injured. The victims included some security men. I believe it was imagined that the government was for one reason or another a factor that contributed to the tension because the appeals we heard in the streets were aimed at the government. That may have been somewhat unfair because economic policies are not instantaneous but span 2 decades of successive governments. As I have previously said, it was necessary, for example, to have a clear and convincing food and agriculture program and to be self-reliant.

I strongly hope that in the near future we will be able to open channels of communication to restore full trust. I believe that everyone can sense that the administration is not incapable and is not affected by charges of corruption.

Any society can endure and endure when it senses that the picture is shaken as a result of such issues and factors as finance, income, and social justice which were among the issues of contention behind the riots.

[Musa] What are the main tasks awaiting the new government?

[Hasan] I believe the most important task is to commit all groups of society, through trust, to this transitional period by reestablishing parliamentary life and reviewing all matters, not just the incidents but all other matters by opening the way for the participation of all sectors of society in shaping Jordan's future through the year 2000.

[Musa] Some people say—and you yourself have mentioned it—that the economic situation is a result of certain accumulations. How did that happen?

[Hasan] As you have said, the economic situation in the agricultural development sector was a result of accumulations. Jordan's priorities covered many things simultaneously. Let me say here that, naturally, Jordan cannot embark on various development programs, armament programs, and equipment purchases. There must be an order of priorities.

Once again I say that there are two sides to the picture: One is what I call the political economy and Jordan's confirmed political commitments to the Arab world, and the other is the development economy. The latter was the subject of our talks with the IMF and the World Bank.

We all realize that the IMF lacks human feelings. It uses its computers and its graphs to give a picture of the economy in comparison to other states, but it cannot grasp the social and human dimensions. So, it proposes necessary remedies. I believe the two main factors are the accumulations on the one hand and the fact that international institutions do not sense the pains of the public.

[Musa] In the light of all that, will the development plan be reconsidered and priority given to other new matters?

[Hasan] The main purpose of the rectification program is to be able to stand on our own feet. We will consider how to surmount this coming difficult period, how to attract foreign aid by maintaining our credibility in the world, and how to be flexible enough to allow a thorough examination of what has happened.

However, if, as I have already said, it is a question of one-upmanship then we cannot at all respond to improvised slogans because the calls for us not to honor foreign debts, to increase spending, and deport foreign and Arab workers are in fact indulgence in one-upmanship.

[Musa] You have advocated Arab economic cooperation. What, in your view, is the way to achieve that?

[Hasan] As I said in my address to the Arab finance ministers, it is clear that economic cooperation between the Arab regions is now of utmost importance. Import and export trade between the Arab states is no more than 2 or 3 percent compared to our relations with all states of the world. There is an age-old misconception that, despite its political weight, the Arab world lacks economic presence.

If that misconception has led to the present conditions then there is need for reconsideration through the economic structures of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and the Maghreb cooperation body, which shift from the concept of Arab League to the concept of a league of Arab economic regions. This modern development is the way to comprehensive and complementary relations between the states and peoples of this part of the world and the rest of the world.

[Musa] Will the economic measures which ignited the incidents be rescinded or will that be up to the national dialogue conference?

[Hasan] We will begin by explaining the background of all that has happened. All groups will then participate in thorough discussions. We are ready for logical reconsideration based on study and conviction but not on raised voices and improvisation, God forbid, because the state is run by its capable and honest institutions, not by the public in the street or by demonstrators and slogans.

[Musa] Over the past few months there have been international contacts to reschedule Jordan's debts. What response have you had?

[Hasan] There is willingness in principle to support Jordan's new approach. Actually, there has not been sufficient time for these states, the IMF trustees and the bank [not further identified] to receive and study the Jordanian views and reply to us. Time is needed.

If these incidents were instigated for a purpose, perhaps the purpose was to create confusion regarding this important step of rescheduling Jordan's foreign debts so that Jordan would remain dependent on certain kinds of aid. We do not view aid as a gift. We want the opportunity to adapt in the next 2 years to the economic transition period and to benefit from past mistakes.

[Musa] During the recent events, voices were raised on the question of parties and civil liberties in the country. How do you view these calls?

[Hasan] Jordan welcomes civil liberties and freedom of expression. There was a meeting on political plurality in the Arab world and I have always called for dialogue and for respect for people's opinions and counter opinions. Regarding parties, there is clarity on this, the kind of clarity which sometimes does not accept dialogue with anyone.

I recall that during our latest meeting here on, for example, the Islamic awakening and the problems of the Arab world, the dialogue included views ranging from the extreme left to the extreme right. The difficulty is in accepting the idea which has led to a detailed discussion on the communist parties in the Arab world, but there are continuous attempts to open the door for dialogue and to avoid confrontation.

We must emphasize our complete eagerness to open dialogue in many areas, including the press, and we should at the same time move to rebuild our institutions, including Parliament. That is all I can say at this point.

[Musa] Scores of people were arrested during the recent incidents. What are the results of the investigations and what measures will be taken against these people?

[Hasan] The investigating bodies are continuing their work and the judicial committee is playing its part. There can be no doubt that the damage was considerable and various crimes were committed—many of them cases of deliberate looting and sabotage. We will leave this matter to the judiciary.

[Musa] Has the interrogation of the detainees revealed involvement or participation of foreign elements?

[Hasan] The investigation is continuing. There may be evidence of foreign involvement and there may be foreign countries which benefit from what happened, but we have found no evidence of foreign participation. It is perhaps too early to talk about that.

[Musa] You have said that the cause of the crisis should be uprooted, and King Husayn has spoken of an inclination to make radical changes. What is the way to carry that out?

[Hasan] The disease has economic and political dimensions but in our diagnosis we note that Jordan is in a crucial and sensitive geographical and political position in the Arab world and the world at large.

In relation to the Palestinian question, Jordan constitutes the last Arab window to Arab Palestine, it should emphasize the importance of stability, and it can serve the Palestinian cause. Furthermore, Jordan is a link between big and small states.

One should undoubtedly note here that certain issues have caused demonstrations in other Arab countries but did not get the same interest that we have been getting from the news media for a long time.

In the course of our own reconsideration we hope that the media, and especially the Western press, will be with us in projecting the benefits and not just dwell on the mistakes. I want to stress here that Jordan will continue to be a model of openness within the one united Jordanian family.

[Musa] You partially blame some of the Arab states for the recent incidents without explaining their motives. What are the motives?

[Hasan] The situation goes back several years, and that applies to Jordan as well as other countries which experience such disasters. As the Arab summit conference approaches we hope that we will be able to discuss the matter. The economic situation that has recently prevailed in the region may be one of the main reasons, but we do hope that these states will regain their health and continue to interact with Jordan in the coming days.

[Musa] Do you think that the violence in these past incidents could have been avoided?

[Hasan] The violence actually began at an early stage. Perhaps the public security vehicle I was in was a target of the stone throwers. I had my share of tear gas. There can be no doubt that people were bent on violence.

[Musa] Will public ownership of firearms be reconsidered now that it has been confirmed that firearms were used against the police and security services?

[Hasan] The citizens are our citizens. We do not view them as foreigners. The vast majority of the people believe in their country's stability and are ready to use arms sensibly. There is also arms licensing. The same system will continue to apply in this connection.

[Musa] What were the results of King Husayn's visit to Washington?

[Hasan] I believe that the U.S. Administration has shown initiative and understanding. There can be no doubt that President Bush knows the Arab leaders and is well acquainted with what has been happening in the Middle East context over the past years.

All issues were discussed—including the occupied territories, elections, and Jordan's coordination with with the PLO as the prime interested party. Its continued dialogue with the Americans has had a good effect.

[Musa] What is the lesson to be learned from the recent incidents?

[Hasan] Naturally, there are many lessons. In my view they include refraining from improvisation in what we do and upholding the institutions and their roles so that we may become the state of executive and legislative institutions.

I believe that the institutions should extend to the private sector, which should shoulder its full responsibility in building a successful, stable, and developing Jordan.

Junblatt Denies Opposition to Arab Observers

NC1005142189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has made the following statement:

We thank General 'Awn and his colleague Dr Samir Ja'ja' for taking care of the old historical sites and for shelling the Bayt al-Din Palace. While expressing our astonishment at this bombardment, we would like to tell the general and the doctor that to the best of the PSP's knowledge, the Bayt al-Din Palace does not house any Syrian launchers or PSP artillery.

This bombardment only confirms the intention of the Army and its clique to cause further escalation. The bombardment also constitutes a refutation of all the statements attributed to PSP leader Walid Junblatt to the effect that he is opposed to the presence of the Arab observers.

We hope that Shaykh al-Sabah, that honorable man and friend for whom we harbor the utmost respect, appreciation, and admiration, will take into consideration the objective facts in Lebanon.

We also hope he will not make statements based on random and misleading information, the purpose of which is to cast doubt on the personal friendship between us and on the strong political relations between us and Kuwait, a relationship that is getting stronger every day.

In this respect, we remind Shaykh al-Sabah that his official overlooking of the support of his neighbor [Iraq] for Michel 'Awn is merely an attempt to safeguard the State of Kuwait and the noble and struggling people of Kuwait. We understand and appreciate this.

The PSP, even during its current predicament, is ready to provide political and military assistance to the State of Kuwait and the noble Arab people of Kuwait, in defense of Kuwait's unity, independence, and sovereignty.

Arab League Team Arrives in Ba'labakk

NC1005171189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpts] An Arab League delegation, comprising Lakhdar Ibrahimi, Arab League assistant secretary general; Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, Kuwait's ambassador to Damascus; Major General [title as heard] 'Ali al-Mu'min, commander of the Arab observers team; and his deputy, Tunisian Major General Mustafa Darghut [name and title as heard], have left Damascus for Ba'labakk, where they met with Husayn al-Husayni, former speaker of the Chamber of Deputies.

It has been reported that the Arab team will leave tomorrow for Beirut to meet Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and former prime minister Dr Salim al-Huss. [passage omitted]

Maj Gen al-Mu'min, commander of the Arab observer team, has announced that the current stage is one of exploration and assessment of positions. He said his talks in Damascus had dealt with the deployment of the 322-strong observer team.

He pointed out that he and the Lebanese figures will discuss a number of topics in order to ensure the success of the team's mission. He noted that once his team succeeds in its mission, it will be easier to tackle the political aspect of the Lebanese crisis.

Al-Husayni on Meeting

NC1105081589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] Hopes are still pinned on the Arab League delegation achieving a new cease-fire. The delegation will begin its meetings in Beirut today by meeting with Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss this morning and then with General Michel 'Awn at B'abda palace at 1200.

The delegation comprises:

Lakhdar Ibrahimi, assistant secretary general of the Arab League; Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, representative of the chairman of the six-man Arab committee and Kuwaiti ambassador to Damascus; Brigadier General [title as heard] 'Ali al-Mu'min, commander of the Arab observer team charged with supervising the cease-fire; and his deputy Tunisian Colonel Mustafa Darghawth [name and title as heard].

The delegation arrived in the city of Ba'labakk yesterday afternoon. It met with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

After the meeting, Ibrahimi said: Our meeting with Speaker al-Husayni has been the first stage. The meeting was useful, good, and constructive. We hope that we will be able to hold similar consultations in Beirut today, God willing.

Ibrahimi added: I again urge the media to positively cooperate with the delegation's task because we believe this task is important and in the interest of Lebanon and the Lebanese people. We are addressing the situation positively despite its complexities, difficulties, and problems.

Speaker al-Husayni then said that the meeting was a chance to review with the Arab league delegation important details on implementing the Arab League Council's decision.

This decision calls for a cease-fire and elimination of the causes for the explosive situation, so as to enable the six-man Arab committee to continue its task to rescue Lebanon from its tragedy.

This tragedy threatens Arab interests by posing the gravest dangers, especially because the danger of Lebanon's experiences is not confined to Lebanon alone but also affects the entire Arab nation. [passage omitted]

Arrive in Beirut, Meet Al-Huss

NC1105090989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Today Arab League envoys Lakhdar Ibrahimi and Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim arrived in Beirut, where they met with former Prime Minister Salim al-Huss. They are scheduled to meet with Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn later.

Envoy on League Role

NC1105130389 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The meeting between Prime minister Dr Salim al-Huss and the Arab delegation ended a short while ago. Part of the meeting was attended by Sami al-Khatib, Army commander and staff major general; 'Umar Makhzumi, director general of the internal security forces; Brigadier General Nadim Farhat, Army intelligence director; and Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi.

After the meeting, Lakhdar Ibrahimi made the following statement:

We appreciate the media's interest, but we hope that the brother journalists will help us. As we have now heard His Excellency Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss say, now is the time for work; not for talk.

We are trying to contact all the brother officials in Lebanon in the hope of restoring the situation to what it was at the start of the Arab committee's work a few months ago.

Ibrahimi continued: I would like to remind everyone once again that the Arab effort was initiated to help solve the entire Lebanese crisis. This work was disrupted because of the deteriorating security situation. The current efforts are meant to normalize the security situation so that the Arab efforts may be completed.

I repeat what I have said in the past, that is, that we believe that there is no justification for the continued shelling. The shelling can and must stop so that the committee will be able to provide the assistance it can offer.

Ibrahim added: I would like to remind everyone that the international community supports this Arab effort. If given a chance, this effort can achieve the required result.

On his part, Brigadier General 'Ali al-Mu'min expressed optimism over the possibility of the current efforts succeeding in implementing the Arab foreign ministers council's resolutions and in restoring the situation to normal.

The Arab delegation then left for B'abda to meet with General Michel 'Awn. Meanwhile, another meeting was held between Kuwaiti Ambassador to Syria Ahmad al-Jasim and Dr Kamil Muhanna, chairman of the governmental committee for following up the dispatch of the Lebanese wounded abroad. The meeting was attended by Ambassador 'Asim Jabir, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

The discussions during the meeting centered on how to transport the Lebanese wounded to Kuwait.

Tomorrow, Dr Muhanna is scheduled to hand Ambassador al-Jasim a list naming those whose cases are difficult and those who will accompany them before they are transported to Kuwait at the beginning of the coming week.

Ambassador al-Jasim said that the Kuwaiti Government can preliminarly receive 50 wounded from the western area.

'Awn Inspects Combat Lines, Criticizes Al-Asad

NC1005201089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] General 'Awn has addressed officers and military personnel during an inspection tour of the fronts and combat lines. He said: It has become clear now to everyone, particularly to the Arab brothers, that the Syrian occupier is continuing its scheme for the destruction of Lebanon, disregarding all the Arab and non-Arab decisions on a cease-fire.

Gen 'Awn added: Let me ask today where those are who blamed us for addressing undiplomatic words to the Syrian president at a time when his guns were bombarding our people, pounding our infrastructure, and destroying our hospitals, schools, and homes?

Perhaps those people see the 240-mm and 180-mm Syrian shells that are assassinating our people and murdering our children as more diplomatic and humane than an upsetting word addressed to him who orders the assassination.

Perhaps they do not see that the bombardment of Al-Dawrah's fuel tanks, acts of siege, disruption of international navigation, air piracy, and cheap political blackmail are permitted for Al-Asad and forbidden for others, even for the victims of the Syrian barbarism, which has gone beyond Nazism.

Gen 'Awn concluded by saying:

Those who are silent today over the crime committed by the subject of our undiplomatic talk have stated that upsetting a lion [Arabic word for lion is Al-Asad] that is devouring a lamb is an unforgivable crime, but murdering an entire nation is a matter open to interpretation.

Al-Huss Offers Cooperation to Shaykh Sabah

NC1105080289 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Yesterday evening, Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss contacted Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, chairman of the Arab good offices committee. They discussed developments in Lebanon and stands on the Arab initiative.

Dr al-Huss expressed his complete readiness to cooperate with the Arab League delegation in everything that is conducive to implementing the Arab decision which calls for a cease-fire, lifting the blockades, and reopening the crossing points.

The implementation of these measures will pave the way for the Arab committee to resume its basic task of addressing the political situation and achieving reconciliatory formulas that will contribute to ending the Lebanese crisis.

Quint Said Held With U.S. Hostages in Al-Biqa'

LD1105081189 Hamburg DPA in German 0637 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—According to information from the private television station "RTL Plus," Markus Quint, who has been kidnapped in Lebanon, is being held together with hostages from the United States in the Al-Biqa' Valley by pro-Iranian Hizbollah militia.

"RTL Plus" also reported early today that Federal Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has asked Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for help in the efforts to free the 21-year-old.

In addition the Bonn Foreign Ministry intends to send an official to the Syrian capital, Damascus.

FRG Asks Organization To Leave Lebanon

NC1105090389 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The West German Government yesterday asked the West German ASME-Humanitas Organization, a member of which was kidnapped in Lebanon last Thursday, to bear responsibility and leave Lebanon.

Cease-Fire Agreement Reportedly Reached

NC1105111589 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] After 14 hours of mad bombardment of the residential areas in the capital and its southern suburb, the mountain, and central Al-Biqa', the indiscriminate shelling of these areas resumed this morning.

The areas of Al-Hamra, Al-Rawshah, Tallat al-Khayyat, Spinneys, UNESCO, Bi'r Hasan, Al-Maramil, Al-Awza'i, and the Airport Road in West Beirut as well as the southern suburb were shelled.

Violent clashes have also raged on the combat lines of 'Alayh, Suq al-Gharb, and Dahr al-Wahsh. Due to the shelling, one person was killed, and seven others were wounded in West Beirut.

According to information, an agreement on a cease-fire was reached at noon today. However, this information has not yet been officially confirmed.

More on Cease-Fire

NC1105113389 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] It has been learned from informed sources that a cease-fire agreement has been reached. The cease-fire will come into effect in all Lebanese territory as of 1420 today.

Security sources have told the Voice of Lebanon that Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has circulated an order to all the commanders of brigades and units to abide by the declared cease-fire.

However, we have just been informed—1 minute before the cease-fire is to come into effect—that Syrian artillery shellfire continues to be targeted at B'abda, Al-Hadath, and the vicinity of the Presidential Palace.

'Awn Shells Mountain

NC1105131989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Michel 'Awn's militias are still directing their rocket and artillery fire at 'Alayh, contrary to their media's claim that they are committed to a cease-fire decision which was to take effect as of 1420 today.

According to reports received a short while ago, a number of artillery shells have landed in 'Alayh and the western coast.

Various Areas in Beirut, Mountain Under Fire

NC1105070089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpt] Today, the Syrians began their attacks along the mountain confrontation lines early, thanks to the mountain climate. Following a brief night respite, they opened up with an artillery barrage at 0545 today along all the fronts and in the residential areas.

The attacks on the Al-Shuwayfat, Kafr Shima, and the surrounding areas began early. The areas of Kafr Shima, Sibnay, Al-Hadath, and the Bitshay-B'abda-Wadi Shahrur road came under tank fire from the area around Charles Sa'd School and the 'Aramun Hills, where 120-mm artillery emplacements are located. The attacks rached a peak of violence at 0630.

After 0630, the scope of the shelling extended to the areas of B'abda, the Presidential Palace, Al-Yarzah, and the National Defense Ministry. At 0620 these attacks were coupled with violent, concentrated shelling of the Army positions on the 'Arayya, Al-Kahhalah, and Dahr al-Wahsh hills from artillery and tank guns located in Duhur al-'Abbadiyah and Shwit.

These attacks extended to the Army positions in Suq al-Gharb and the surrounding hills and came from Qurs al-Mudawwar, 'Ayn al-Sayyidah, Al-Qummatiyah, and (Bikkin).

After 0715, the shelling from tank guns against the central Al-Matn villages intensified. The shelling was aimed at Al-Mansuriyah, 'Ayn Sa'adah, and Monte Verde. The shelling, which also involved the use of rockets, was directed from the hills of Al-'Abbadiyah and Shwit.

According to the latest security reports, intermittent shellfire was directed against B'abda, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Yarzah, and Jumhur at 0745. Kafr Shima, Sibnay, the Dahr al-Wahsh hills, 'Arayya, and Al-Hadath have been coming under intermittent shellfire since 0800.

In view of these attacks, the Lebanese Army began retaliating against the sources of fire in Al-Dawhah, 'Aramun, the Khaldah hills and traffic circle, Al-Maramil, Al-'Awza'i, Dayr Qubil in the southern suburb, and Al-Shahhar; and agaisnt the Syrian positions in the Duhur 'Alayh, Bhamdun, B'alshmayh, the Al-'Abbadiyah hills, and Shwit in the mountain region. This is in addition to the sources of fire in Shimlan and the western suburb of 'Alayh.

The Syrian forces have decalred a general state of alert in the southern suburb, in Al-Shahhar, and on the mountain.

The shelling yesterday left 10 people dead and 35 wounded in both sectors of Beirut, on the mountain, in the upper and lower Al-Matn, and in Al-Biqa'. [passage omitted]

Television Station Shelled; Transmission Halted

NC1105055189 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] Beirut and its southern suburb, the mountain, Shtawrah, and Kasrawan were madly bombarded for 14 hours yesterday. [passage omitted]

For the second time in 2 days, the building housing Channel 7 of Lebanon Television was shelled while the newscast was being broadcast.

The building sustained grave damage which interrupted transmission. No television workers or Army personnel guarding the building were hurt.

Television transmission will be suspended for several days until the damage is repaired.

The house of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the higher Islamic Shi'ite council, was also hit by several shells during the shelling 2 days ago.

The family of Shaykh Shams al-Din was in the house at the time but no family members were hurt. [passage omitted]

Due to the shelling of the Al-Shuf area 2 days ago, Shaykh Mursil Nasr, president of the Druze court of appeal, was slightly wounded inside his house.

Syrian Shelling of Eastern Areas Continues

NC1105083789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The intermittent and surprise Syrian bombardment of the eastern areas is continuing. Shells are falling on southern Al-Matn, the Beirut port area, where two people have been killed, and on the coast of northern Al-Matn. One of the persons killed was a man wearing a thimble on his finger, indicating that he was a tailor.

According to the latest reports, the Kafr Shima and Sibnay environs are coming under violent shelling from Al-Shuwayfat and Al-'Amrusiyah. Meanwhile, the areas of Monte Verde, Al-Mukallis, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Jumhur, Al-Yarzah, and central northern Al-Matn are being targeted by similar shelling.

Army positions all along the line extending from Suq al-Gharb and its hills to Dahr al-Wahsh and the 'Arayya hills are being bombarded. The shellfire is originating from the Syrian forces emplacements in Duhur al-'Ibadiyah, 'Alayh, Ba'lshmayh, Shimlan, Duhur Bhamdun, and Majdal Ba'na.

T-55 and T-62 tanks positioned in Duhur al-'Ibadiyah and Shwit as well as 240-mm gun emplacements are being used in the bombardment. A Syrian emplacement in the town of Qummul in Al-Biqa' is still firing 180-mm shells at the central part of southern Al-Matn.

As of 1000 hours, launchers situated in Khaldah, 'Aramun, Al-Maramil, and Al-Awza'i began to pour shells on Al-Jumhur, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Kahhalah, Al-Yarzah, and B'abda. Some shells reached as far as the central part of northern Al-Matn.

1 Killed, 3 Wounded in West Beirut Shelling

NC1105092789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 11 May 89

[Excerpts] While the Arab League delegation was beginning the second round of consultations in order to achive a cease-fire, the 'Awn militia again escalated the situation by firing its treacherous and rancorous shells at residential neighborhoods in West Beirut and Al-Shuwayfat, 'Alayh, and its surrounding area in the mountain. [passage omitted]

One person was killed and at least three others wounded in West Beirut.

Al-Shar' Meets With Arab League Officials 10 May

JN1005122689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Damascus—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Lakhdar Ibrahimi, representative of the Arab League secretary general; Ahmad 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Jasim, representative of the chairman of the Arab Ministerial Lebanon Committee; Brigadier General 'Ali Muhammad Hasan al-Mu'min, commander of the Arab observers' team; and Brigadier General Mustafa Darghut [name as heard], deputy commander of the team.

Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister and the head of the Arab Homeland Department at the Ministry attended the meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed the developments in the Lebanese arena.

Al-Shar' Meets U.S. War College Delegation 10 May

JN1005132189 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received a delegation of the Washington-based National War College.

The meeting was attended by Diya'ullah al-Fattah, assistant foreign minister, the head of the American Desk at the Ministry, and the U.S. ambassador in Damascus.

During the meeting, the minister explained Syria's stand vis-a-vis the overall situation in the region, especially with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and ways to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region—a peace based on an Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and securing the national rights of the Palestinian Arab people in accordance with the relevant UN resolutions.

The foreign minister also explained the current Lebanese developments and Syria's eagerness to help the fraternal Lebanese people resolve their crisis through a political dialogue and the realization of national accord.

AL-THAWRAH Cited on Call To Overthrow 'Awn

JN1005170189 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Damascus, May 10 (SANA)—AL-THAWRAH asserts that the return of the Al-Yarzah general ['Awn] to practice his military madness—in a way that is uglier than before the adoption of the Arab League's decisions—aims not only at obstructing Arab efforts but also at continuing his destructive design against Lebanon and the Lebanese in accordance with his tyrannical nature and usurpation of legitimacy.

In its editorial today, the paper believes that 'Awn's shells blindly falling on innocent people are evidence of what 'Awn and his clique are hiding and the reality of his terrorist plan, which is linked to the more comprehensive and expanded Israeli design.

AL-THAWRAH adds that with 'Awn's breach of his misleading pledges with regard to the cease-fire, the reality of the outlaw general's intentions has become clear.

He cannot listen to the voice of wisdom or national and human conscience because he believes that exploding the situation and continuing the bloodshed is in the interests of his isolationist plan, which is rejected by the majority of the Lebanese people and the figures of East Beirut represented by its deputies and patriarch.

The paper concludes by stressing that it is inadmissible and unacceptable for Lebanon to remain a hostage in the hands of 'Awn and his likes. What is required is the overthrow of 'Awn and his role.

The paper notes that tackling the security situation is not enough to deter 'Awn and his clique and stop the bloodshed.

Dealing with the security situation must be coupled with tackling the political situation to achieve the required reforms of the regime; everyone is unanimous on the need to get rid of it and set up new bases for coexistence among all Lebanese.

Afghanistan

Further on Continuing Battle for Jalalabad City

'Enemies' Retreat; 21 Killed

BK1005125489 Kabul in Urdu to South Asia 1230 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] As a result of the firing by the enemies on Jalalabad city, five local residents were martyred. Eight persons, including a government soldier, were injured.

Eleven houses and one mosque were damaged. The enemies were forced to retreat due to the retaliatory attacks by the government's military units. The enemies suffered 37 killed and 21 injured.

The enemies have been pushed back on various fronts. A large quantity of small and heavy arms of the enemies have either been destroyed or captured by government troops.

Another report says the enemies fired heavy weapons in Qandahar and Herat Provinces and Khowst, but no damage was caused.

Situation in City, Salang Noted

LD1105063789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0454 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 10, BAKHTAR—The Afghan opposition die hards supported by Pakistani tribal militia units pounded anew the city of Jalalabad and security posts of government troops in the past 24 hours killing two persons and injuring five. One apartment house was also partially destroyed.

The Afghan artillery and aviation launched counterattacks as a result of which 37 extremists were killed including three Pakistani militias and four wounded.

The opposition forces again bombarded with rockets and shells populated localities in Herat and Paktia Provinces injuring one person in Paktia and four in Herat.

The Afghan Army disabled two long-range guns and blew off an ammunition depot of the enemy and destroyed eight vehicles with ammunition on board.

The Armed Forces carried out retaliatory operations in south Salang as a result of which over 140,000 bullets of light weapons and machine guns and three communication units of the enemy fell to the hand of the enemy [as received].

Journalists' Visit Detailed

LD1105063389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 10, BAKHTAR—A group of foreign journalits visited Jalalabad city today. Included among the foreign journalists were the correspondents of [AGENCE-] FRANCE PRESS, UNITED PRESS, ASSOCIATED PRESS, NEW YORK TIMES and others.

The journalists visited the airport of Jalalabad city which has severely been damaged by the heavy weapons fired by the joint forces of the Afghan extremists, Pakistani militias and those of Saudi Arabia and made interviews with Army servicemen there.

Later, they paid a visit to Baba Nanak Daramsal (Hindu's worship place), which has been partially damaged by the opposition's rocket fire, causing the death and injury of a number of Hindus and Sikhs.

The foreign journalists visited different parts of Jalalabad old city and were convinced that Mojaddedi's assertions were wrong as if it were under the opposition's control.

They also visited Nangarhar High School where 4000 students were engaged in receiving education two months ago and now the blind rockets have converted it into a wreckage and they held talk with the principal of the school.

The journalists also visited Darunta Electriciy Dam and made interview with its president and employees. They also paid a visit to public health hospital of Jalalabad city and chatted with patients there.

Later, the journalists participated in a press conference. High-ranking Afghan military personnel responded to their questions about the politico-military situation of Nangarhar Province.

The journalists returned to Kabul from Jalalabad city this afternoon after preparing reports about the situation there.

AFP Reports Effects of Seige

BK1005161689 Hong Kong AFP in English 1611 GMT 10 May 89

[By Kate Webb]

[Text] Jalalabad, Afghanistan, May 10 (AFP)—This besieged city was eerily quiet and half deserted Wednesday with small children playing in foxholes amid buildings scarred by the shrapnel of thousands of mujahidin rockets.

Doctors at the city's main single-story 110-bed hospital told the first Western journalists to come here since a two-month rebel siege began that 3,000 people had been admitted in the period, most of them civilians with severe shrapnel wounds.

Ten percent had had limbs amputated and another 523 civilians had died from the intensive shelling of the city, they said.

The doctors said the number of casualties was down but that there had been a steep rise in illness. They did not provide figures or details.

No rockets fell on the sprawling city during the four and a half hours that 13 foreign journalists spent touring Jalalabad and its suburbs in a dilapidated Indian-made bus.

Provincial Governor Lieutenant Colonel Manook Mangal said 131,000 rounds of rockets, artillery and mortar fire had hit the city since March 7. He praised the Armed Forces of President Najibullah's Soviet-backed government and civilians who he said had joined the battle. Turning to the journalists, he said, "you see, Jalalabad is still alive."

"They (the mujahidin) attacked and were answered properly" added Afghanistan's Eastern front commander, 40-year-old Gen. Muhammad Assef Delawar in a briefing in a hospital lecture theater as helicopters buzzed the building signalling it was time for the journalists to fly back to Kabul.

Gen. Delawar did not mention the three generals who had died in the battle for Jalalabad. He said the road from Kabul, 80 miles away, was now open and that "convoys of food and ammunition (flown in from the Soviet Union) arrive almost daily."

All schools, and the modern arcaded Roshan University with gaping rocket holes in the roof, were closed and abandoned.

At Nangahar High School, teacher Nuri Hafizullah pointed to blood splashes in a crude foxhole in the schoolyard where he said a 17-year-old member of the student defense group had died.

Unlike the villages surrounding Jalalabad which were pulverized, apparently from both government bombing and mujahidin rockets, most of the buildings in the city of Jalalabad are standing abandoned, pockmarked, their windows blown out.

Flowering trees, lilac and bouganvillia bloom in the yards. Birds sang in the neglected gardens, the streets were silent except for the rare military jeep, an occasional old man on a push bike and the odd horse cart.

The provincial governor said some 170,000 people remained in the city, but aside from grinning children—many with skin diseases—leaping barefoot in and out of foxholes and covered drainage ditches used as roadside bunkers, few people were seen.

Central Shishambah Park, a sometime helicopter landing point, was a mass of trenches and tanks, one with its cannon exploded like a shredded melon.

Many people are living in cellars, said 48-year-old Bhagat Singh, a medical doctor and one of an estimated 8,000 Afghan Sikhs, most of them traders, still in the city.

Like some 500 other Sikhs, Bhagat Singh and his family are living in the cellars of one of Jalalabad's two Sikh temples, or gudwarahs, where three rockets hit at the end of March killing 24 people and injuring 102.

Six babies have been born in the dank temple cellars since the siege began, he said, taking a lantern to show journalists down the narrow cellar stairs where three elderly Sikhs lay possibly dying in the dark and women were feeding young children.

"Why do the Americans send weapons for the Pakistanis to fire on us," said 75-year-old Harnam Singh, one of the temple guardians. "What have we done to them?"

An Afghan Government Television team was on hand to film several residents asking American and British journalists the same question in shrill voices. But the soldiers and residents that journalists met were overwhelmingly friendly and courteous with many, including British-trained doctors at the hospital, offering the gentle, traditional "salam" greeting.

At the airport to the east of the city, destruction was savage. The mujahidin are believed to have held the airport in the early days of the offensive but the military here has denied it. Evidence of heavy fighting was apparent in the smashed control tower, twisted wreckage of corrugated iron hangars and Army jeeps buckled under from direct hits.

Golam Rabbani, an 18-year-old private who survived the airport attack, said he lost two close friends in the fighting but that now the enemy had been driven back 10 kilometers from the airport perimeter.

Helicopter pilots who flew the journalists here landed in a wheat field on the Western edge of the city. They said the airport could not be used because, one said, the rebels "rocket anything that tries to land."

Senior pilot Humayun, 24, flew in with an escort of six Soviet Hind gunships over a hair-raising series of bleak rock ridges.

Most of the time he flew only three to five meters (10 to 15 feet) above the ground, almost scraping cliff tops, swooping into narrow crevasses and at one stage landing in a river to cool an overheated engine.

A crashed helicopter, one rotor twisted, lay on the edge of the wheat field, and as the journalists boarded their helicopter, the flight engineer armed with a Kalashnikov rifle had to shove out two soldiers trying to clamber aboard.

'Interim Government' Denies Jalalabad Siege Broken

BK1005153489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] The defense minister of the interim government of Afghanistan, Mawlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi, has said that the mujahidin have intensified their activities in Khowst District, and Qandahar and Herat Provinces and are planning to launch operations very soon in [word indistinct].

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon after a 2-week visit to Qandahar, he said that except for Qandahar city and its airport, the entire province is under the control of the mujahidin. Intense pressure is now being applied on the airport.

Mawlai Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi said that Brigade 29 of the Kabul regime has surrendered to the mujahidin in Paktia Province. He denied that Kabul regime troops have reoccupied Samar Kheyl garrison and a 40-mile stretch of the Jalalabad-Towr Kham highway. He also denied that the Kabul regime has broken the siege of Jalalabad.

Pakistani Claims of Scud Missile Firing Refuted

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan yesterday afternoon during which the Pakistani Foreign Ministry's baseless allegation against Afghanistan relating to the use of a Scud missile on Pakistan's (Qalam Nau) was strongly refuted by the head of the First Political Department.

The Pakistani charge d'affaires was told that according to extensive inquiry, no missile has been fired at Pakistan from the Afghan side.

The Government of Pakistan is resorting to this propaganda to divert the attention of the Pakistani people and the world from Pakistan's interference in internal affairs of Afghanistan, and also from Pakistan's aggression against Afghanistan through its organized militia force.

Similarly, he was told that Afghanistan's military operations are aimed at the warmongering groups who are carrying out subversive activities in cities and other residential areas inside Afghanistan.

Violations of Geneva Accords Sent to UN Mission

Notices 471-473

LD1105064389 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 10, BAKHTAR—Notices Number 471 472 and 473 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan on violations by Pakistan of the provisions of the Geneva accords were submitted to the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP) here on Tuesday [9 May].

Undeniable evidences on 12 flagrant Pakistani violations of the Geneva accords are given to the mission in the notices.

They ask the mission that as per Para 7, Document Number 4 of the said accords assess the said violations and convey results of its findings to the side of the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general immediately.

Since the signing of the Geneva accords Pakistan has violated it 3863 times. These violations were brought through 473 notices to the attention of the UNGOMAP office in the Afghan capital.

Notices 474-476

LD1105064589 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Kabul, May 10, BAKHTAR—The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan handed over another three notes 474 up to 476, to the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] citing new facts of the violations by Pakistan of Geneva agreements.

The notes gave precise information about 24 instances of gross violations of the Geneva agreements by Pakistani side. The Pakistani military put at the disposal of the extremists assorted weapons including surface-to-surface rockets. The presence of the military training camps inside Pakistan form other brazen violations by Pakistan of the Geneva provisions.

The notes call on the UNGOMAP Headquarters to investigate the matter and to convey the findings to the Republic of Afghanistan and representative of the UN secretary general.

Bangladesh

AFP: Tribal Insurgents Reject Amnesty Offer

BK1105023289 Hong Kong AFP in English 0210 GMT 11 May 89

[By Pratap Chakravarty]

[Text] Dhaka, May 11 (AFP)—Bangladesh's dominant tribal insurgent group has ignored President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's amnesty offers and stepped up violence in southeastern districts that go to the polls next month.

The banned Shanti Bahini has refused to lay down its arms and accept the April 22 amnesty offer on grounds that the peace initiative does not acknowledge the group's separatist demands in the rugged Chittagong Hill Tracts, officials said.

Only two senior activists, out of an estimated 1,000 insurgents, have accepted the offer which ends on May 10 while other rebels have stepped up attacks against the army and Muslim settlers in the hills, the officials said.

Army sources here said Shanti Bahini guerrillas shot dead five paramilitary Bangladesh Rifles personnel and wounded five Saturday [6 May] in Chittagong's Rangamati District where 14 civilians have died in insurgent-linked violence since Mr. Ershad announced his peace offer.

The guerrillas also torched two tribal villages in the area Tuesday in an attempt to drive out residents who have accepted government payments, land and incentives in the past.

"They will not lay down arms because... they do not accept the government's amnesty proposals and fear retributions from the local Muslim settlers and the Bangladesh Army after they surrender," a senior Army official said.

The government has acknowledged the Shanti Bahini's virtual rejection of the amnesty, aimed at ending the 14-year-old insurgency and encouraging some 96,000 tribal refugees to return to the area from northeast India's Tripura State.

"There has been no phenomenal increase in the return of refugees since the declaration of an amnesty by the government, but daily some seven to eight people are coming back," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He admitted the peace offer had failed to interest the guerrillas and added that there had been no significant rise in the number of rebels surrendering.

His remarks came amid reports that Shanti Bahini leaders Somiron Dawan and Rupayan Chakma were in Bangladesh to step up the campaign for autonomy in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, a 13,000 square kilometre (5,200 square mile) area bordering India and Burma.

The Shanti Bahini is also campaigning for the expulsion of all Bengali-speaking Muslim settlers from the area, the land of the Buddhist Chakma tribals who are the original inhabitants of the subcontinent.

The government circulated a leaflet after Mr. Ershad's amnesty offer, saying cash awards of 30,000 taka (937.50 dollars) for mortars and light machineguns and 10,000 taka (313 dollars) for wireless sets would be offered to those accepting the pardon. Other benefits included five acres (two hectares) of land and free food grain to last a year.

Mr. Ershad also announced, on April 23, elections for an autonomous hill council for the three districts in the Chittagong Hill Tracts and said refugees returning from India as well as reformed Shanti Bahini members would be eligible to vote or run as candidates.

The polls, scheduled to be held on June 25, have been rejected by the Shanti Bahini which has made a nine-point demand, including a separate state for the tribals and the withdrawal of all military units from the region.

The Shanti Bahini has reportedly killed some 900 tribals and settlers during the past eight years.

Ershad Appoints New Irrigation Minister 9 May

BK0905160189 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Major, retired, Manzur Quader, MP [member of Parliament], has been appointed a state minister. President Ershad administered the oath of office in Dhaka this morning.

Mr Quader will discharge his responsibilities as a state minister in the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control.

India

Meeting With Pakistan on Glacier Issue Planned

BK1005160089 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] India and Pakistan are to hold two official-level meetings in Islamabad later this month to discuss various aspects of bilateral relations. Defense secretaries of the two countries will hold talks for 4 days from the 27th of this month.

This will be preceded by a meeting of the home secretaries from the 20th. This was announced by an official spokesman in New Delhi today.

The situation in the Siachen Glacier area, he said, is getting back to normal rapidly. The spokesman clarified that occasionally, the Siachen Glacier area witnesses exchange of fire, and efforts are usually made by local commanders of the two sides to stop the firing and resolve the problem.

Agreement on Geology, Mining Signed With PRC

BK0805030889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] India and China are to cooperate in geology and mineral exploration. The two countries will also exchange scientific and technical information in these fields.

A memorandum was signed to this effect in Beijing at the end of the steel and mines minister, Mr Fotedar's, visit to China. The areas of cooperation includes, geochemistry, geophysics, and hydrology.

Nationals' Departure From Singapore Under Way

BK1105091289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] About 250 Indian nationals who were overstaying in Singapore have since returned to India. A spokesman of the Indian High Commission told our correspondent that more such nationals will leave by next week by Indian naval ships when these arrive.

So far about 1,200 persons illegally overstaying in Singapore have registered their names with the high commission.

Buta Singh Comments on President's Rule in Punjab

BK1105043989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has reiterated that the government is anxious to restore a democratically elected government in Punjab at the earliest.

He was replying to the debate in the Rajya Sabha on the extension of president's rule in Punjab by another 6 months from today. The house adopted a statutory resolution to this effect yesterday. The Lok Sabha has already approved it.

The home minister stressed the need for a joint campaign against terrorists. He appealed to the opposition to view the problem in a national perspective. Referring to the Anantpur Sahib resolution, Mr Buta Singh said it is a clear step for bifurcating the country, which will never be accepted.

Mr Buta Singh recalled that the entire situation, starting with the freedom movement, was discussed and finalized when the Constitution was framed, which is final on such basic issues. He said after adoption of the Constitution there is nothing for any section of the society to be separate or to be exclusive. India is one nation and every Indian is equally free to enjoy freedom in any part of the country. The question of secularism, democracy, and sovereignty of the country has been finally decided and there cannot be any change in these basic things.

Mr Buta Singh said since the imposition of president's rule in Punjab, great success has been achieved to control fundamentalist terrorism. The people can now freely visit the Golden Temple and gun running terrorism has been controlled to a great extent. He said the government is keeping a constant watch on the situation and acts accordingly.

The home minister outlined the various measures taken under the prime minister's package on Punjab. Mr Buta Singh commended the people of Punjab for maintaining the tempo of development in the state.

He referred to the visit of the cabinet subcommittee to Punjab and regretted that the opposition parties did not cooperate. Mr Buta Singh criticized the Akali Dal for laying preconditions for a dialogue to solve the problem.

Minister: Export Targets Likely To Be Exceeded

BK0705031289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] The commerce minister, Mr Dinesh Sigh, has said that the country's exports during 1988-89 are estimated to be 20,281 crore rupees, the highest figure ever.

Mr Dinesh Singh says this represents a growth of 29 percent over the last year and exceeded the target of 18,795 crores by 1,486 crore rupees. He said exports have gone up over the last 3 years because of the policy stimulus.

Referring to imports, the minister said foodgrain stocks were replenished to some extent by imports last year. The trade deficit is estimated at 7,412 crores during 1988-89 as against the 1987-88 level of 6,624 crores.

Dalai Lama Intends To 'Withdraw' From Politics

OW1005195789 Tokyo KYODO in English 1458 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] New Delhi, May 10 KYODO—The Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, has expressed his intention to withdraw from political activities, it was learned Wednesday.

But his proposal to retire is expected to be refused by a general meeting of the exiled Tibetan Government being held in the northern Indian city of Dharmsala, a New Delhi spokesman for the Tibetan spiritual leader said.

According to the spokesman, the Dalai Lama first revealed his idea of retirement in January at a rally of Tibetans and he reiterated his proposal at the general session on Sunday.

But representatives at the meeting here asked the Dalai Lama to continue his political activities and will reject his proposal, the spokesman said.

The Dalai Lama, who fled to India in 1959 after leading a failed rebellion against China, made a proposal in June at the European Parliament which gave China foreign policy control over an internally self-governing Tibet.

Radical Tibetan youth have criticized the Dalai Lama for making compromises toward the Chinese Government.

The Dalai Lama's proposal to end his political activities was aimed at seeking a vote of confidence for his policy, according to local observers.

Iran

Security Deputy Minister Says Spy Ring 'Busted'

LD1105150189 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Semnan, May 11, IRNA—Security forces recently busted a spy ring with links to the Monafeqin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) outlaws, revealed the deputy information minister here Thursday.

"Ringleader Mas'ud Dalvand and 10 other spies have been arrested," Hojjat ol-Eslam Fallahian said.

The gang was involved in spying for Ba'thist Iraq and other foreign intelligence services by gathering information from government offices and organizations, he added.

He said another gang called 'Janbani' responsible for helping MKO members infiltrate government offices was also busted and its members arrested. Details would be released later, he added.

Last month Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani disclosed the busting of an elaborate countrywide spying network with links to the CIA and other Western governments.

Several key members have been nabbed, and the deputy information concluded that the arrested U.S. mercenaries will soon go on trial.

Majlis Speaker Says Remarks 'Misinterpreted'

LD1005164789 Tehran IRNA in English 1642 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Wednesday said he had been misinterpreted when he called for retaliatory attacks for every Palestinian brutalized by Zionist forces.

Iran was being accused of officially calling for attacks on innocent Western civilians because the West wanted to reverse a defeat in the row over 'The Satanic Verses'.

"I do not advise such a thing. Really. I think if they kill ordinary citizens it would show a weak point," he said in an interview in Bandar-e Abbas.

"They have quoted me, in their words, innocent civilians should be killed. I don't know. Perhaps this could be derived from my statements."

He said Washington and other Western capitals had quickly "expressed horror for what I had said because they needed to find an excuse to make up for their mistakes... and the defeat which they had suffered in 'The Satanic Verses' affair."

The 12-nation European Community first withdrew their ambassador from Tehran following Imam Khomeyni fatwa [religious decree] ordering Muslims to execute the author of the blasphemous novel.

But after strong support for Iran's stand from Muslims worldwide and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the European envoys returned to the Iranian capital.

The Majlis speaker said he still firmly stood by his view that tit-for-tat attacks were inevitable.

"The pressures against popular and Islamic movements cannot be one-sided. It will definitely have repercussions. And I stand by my expressed point of view."

"If they (Western states) allow Israel to do these things (against Palestinians) then those actions (retaliation by Palestinians) would follow."

But he added: "Maybe my tone was such that they thought I was giving advice... but I gave an interpretation (of what may happen) and this should be taken seriously."

He said: "I've always said if the Americans want to get rid of terrorism, they should burn its roots and they themselves are the roots of terrorism."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani, who is the front-runner for the August presidential election, also said that Zionist brutality may lead to hijackings and bombings but that innocent civilians may be caught up.

"Those around a military target are not all military personnel and hijacking a plane may be for attacking someone inside but the other passengers may also get hurt."

The Majlis speaker, who is also acting armed forces commander in chief stressed that the Islamic Republic believed that terrorism was a "public menace" but that "we are not prepared to condemn terrorism one-sidedly."

"This is what the Americans and the British want. They want state-sponsored terrorism committed for instance by the Israel or the (Lebanese) Phalangists or the Americans themselves, to be legitimate, but not the people's reaction.

"A few days ago, when they assassinated (PLO chief Yasir) 'Arafat's advisor in (Lebanon), isn't this terrorism? This was carried out by Israeli agents.

"Everyday the regime usurping Palestine is kiling people in the streets. Is terrorism limited to something done covertly? (Is it not terrorism when) people in Lebanon come under a rain of bullets from the air and on the ground?..."

Hashemi-Rafsanjani strongly attacked the Western interpretation of civilized behavior and said the West was not prepared to condemn Israel for the inhuman way it dealt with defenceless Palestinians.

"If someone condemns the actions of Israel and (Lebanese military leader) Michel 'Awn, he is not civilized. But those who favor 4 million Palestinians to be refugees and agree the Israeli bombardment... of refugee camps are civilized."

He added: "It is better if we stay behind this civilized caravan."

Interviewed on Manuevers, PLO

LD1005195989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief, after inspecting the final stage of the "Zolfaqar-4" exercises, gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent. He said:

[Begin recording] [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] What was important to us in these exercises was the state of readiness and the facilities at the disposal of the Navy. They have maintained their vessels very well, all prepared. Their equipment is in fine shape because they have taken advantage of lull in the fighting since the end of the war.

Their care of the warships, frigates, supply ships, and helicopters was interestng, and their coordination with the ground and air forces in the operations [words indistinct]. One of the objectives of the (?exercise) was to strengthen this coordination.

Of course, this was the third phase. I did not see the first and the second phases. The next phase apparently will be carried out tomorrow. We hope that the growing trend of our forces' readiness will continue in the same way.

[Question] To what extent do you consider these exercises, especially the training of the Armed Forces, beneficial in strengthening the defense capability of the forces?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Exercises are staged between training and the actual state of war. For instance, after receiving training, a soldier needs to be able to use that training. Under war conditions, the soldier would fight. Still, even in that case he needs to have taken part in a military maneuvers beforehand.

This should happen and it is very useful. Exercises are the actual enactment of military training. If you prevent military personnel from holding military exercises, their state of readiness will diminish.

[Question] Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, my other question is about your remarks in the Friday prayers sermons of last week. Your remarks about the Palestinian strugglers' response to Israeli aggression and the comprehensive support shown by the United States to this regime.

This caused mixed interpretations by various countries, for example, Great Britain, the United States, and Israel. Each of these countries interpreted your remarks in a different way. Can your comments be taken as the position of the Islamic Republic? Or are they your personal views?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There are many issues involved. This is one question; obviously, there are other questions as well. One thing that was interesting for me in the midst of all theiar views and reactions, that is the United States, Britain and France, was their anxiety and fear my remarks generated—also, the need they felt to use trickery to hide the mistakes they had made in the Salman Rushdie issue and the defeat they suffered regarding "The Satanic Verses."

They felt the need for these propagandistic ploys. I detected this in their tricks, but I think they have made another blunder. [end recording]

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani continued: What I have said has of course been my own interpretation—I expressed my own view, this was my analysis and it was nothing new. For years, even in my interviews with Western correspondents, I have said that such pressures exerted on popular and Islamic movements cannot be one sided and will evoke similar responses. I still hold the same view. My opinions might be shared by other officials or might not.

The speaker of the Majlis stressed: The position of the Islamic Republic is still the one that was announced. We consider terrorism a nuisance in the day-to-day lives of the people.

At the same time, we are not prepared to issue a one-dimensional verdict on terrorism, to suit the Americans and the English. They would like to see government terrorism, of the kind practiced by Israel, the Phalangists, or even the Americans themselves, be accepted. However, the people's response in like manner is not acceptable.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: A few days ago, 'Arafat's adviser was killed in Sidon. Is this not terrorism? The killers were Israeli. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added:

The usurping regime in Palestine kills people in the streets of occupied Palestine every day. Terrorism is not limited to what people do secretly, opening a barrage of bullets on people, taking people from Lebanon to Israel to imprison them, or what the Americans have done, such as giving $700 million worth of weapons to Michel 'Awn—which, it is said, he uses to pound Lebanese towns and to make people homeless by blowing up Palestinian homes.

We consider these acts of terrorism. These are not acts of war or defense. These are the worst kinds of terrorism and, in return, those who have been wronged will defend themselves. I have always said that if the Americans want to eliminate terrorism, they should root out terrorism. They are the roots of terrorism. They should not allow Israel to continue its actions. If such acts are committed, other acts of reprisal will be done automatically.

Of course, I may have sounded as if I were advising—maybe I did sound like that—but I meant to be giving my interpretation, and my analysis should be taken seriously.

Referring to the West's mistaken interpretation of his remarks, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The Westerners have quoted me as saying that ordinary civilians, innocent people should be killed. I do not know, maybe my comments might be taken that way. If they were taken to mean that ordinary civilians are to be killed, yes, I meant that such incidents will happen. But did I advise that such action be taken?

No, I really do not advise such actions; I consider it a weakness. If they kill ordinary citizens and cause the kind of propaganda we are witnessing now, the justified position of an oppressed movement is taken away. But the truth is that, being realistic, they should accept the fact that such crimes will result in killings, hijackings, and murder of innocent people.

Although the planting of a bomb might be a military objective, those who are in the surrounding area might not all be military. If a plane is hijacked, a passenger on the plane might be the target but the other passengers suffer as well. These things happen.

Commenting on the statement by the U.S. State Department that Iran will be isolated as a result of such remarks, the acting commander in chief said: Their interpretation of isolation might justify what they have said. But, in our revolution, we follow objectives that may be considered unpleasant from the point of view of Western arrogance.

Naturally, they are not of the same mind as we are; that is why they boycott us. Well, they follow certain ideas, and their interpretation is that Iran will be left behind in the civilized world. The West considers what Israel and Michel 'Awn are doing as civilized. If anyone condemns such acts, he is not civilized.

Do they consider as civilized that four million Palestinians are homeless and living in camps, and that Israel should bomb the Palestinian refugee camps in which the people who were made homeless 30 or 40 years ago are living in squalor? In that case, it is better for us to lag behind this kind of civilization.

If restoring the rights of the deprived is against civilization, we are really behind in that respect. But, according to their own interpretation, if someone invites people to commit acts of terrorism against codes of morality, naturally, it would go against world public opinion.

I consider the West to be the main cause. The root of terrorism lies in Israel's crooked and aggressive policies, which are being implemented with West's support. But they are in charge of everything now and they can say what they want.

In conclusion, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces, in paying tribute to the experts and personnel of the Islamic Republic's Navy for repairing the warship "Sabalan"—which was rendered useless as the result of bombing by the aggressive U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf—said: Some interesting work has been done in the course of rebuilding this warship, and to be fair, it was fascinating.

Repairing a warship is much more difficult than building one. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: I sincerely thank the engineers, technicians, and workers who are performing such a great task. I was impressed by their work and I think that after repairs on this warship are finished we will have the capability to build ships.

Concerning the launch of a submarine constructed by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces said: I saw this submarine in the workshop, but it was difficult for me to be certain that it was, indeed, a submarine and would work underwater. It was interesting to see it close-up.

Of course, I cannot remain here longer to see the details and to go underwater in the submarine to see what it is like. However, the preliminary stages were performed and I found them interesting. I think we have taken an effective step in the marine industry and God willing, we will achieve good results. [end recording]

Further on 'Zolfaqar-4' Maneuvers

LD1005183189 Tehran IRNA in English 1753 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Acting Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani was all praise today for the combat readiness of the naval forces after witnessing the final stage of the Zolfaqar-4 joint maneuvers.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who is also speaker of the Majlis termed coordination between the Ground Forces and the Navy as "excellent." He was confident that combat prowess of the Iranian forces is on the upward trend.

He also lauded naval experts for repairing the frigate "Sabalan" damaged by the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, and said the repair works were even greater than building a new frigate.

On the launching of a submarine built by the Islamic revolution's guards corps, Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed it "very interesting and a landmark in naval industries."

The Iranian forces gave an excellent display of their prowess today by escorting ships, capturing a tug-boat unit by landing troops from helicopters, and chasing fighter planes.

The Zolfaqar-4 joint forces maneuvers, named after the famous double edged sword of Imam 'Ali (pbuh) [peace be upon him]—the first imam of the prophet's (PBUH) household—started four days ago in the waters of the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz.

KAYHAN Urges Development of Ties With PRC

LD1105111589 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 11, IRNA—Commenting on the "belated" expansion of relations with China in light of current visit to Beijing by Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, an Iranian daily today has come up in favor of effecting some basic changes in the foreign policy of Iran.

Referring to the "little efforts" made to develop economic, cultural and political ties with People's Republic of China, KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL criticized Iran's policy-makers for "not seeing the world... with the correct, or at least, reasonably appropriate perspective."

According to the paper, the trip, "apart from its diplomatic and political significance in light of Iran's strained relations with the West, should also be considered as a step in the right direction in terms of economics."

Stressing that China and Iran share "primary objectives" as both are opposed to imperialism, the English-language daily wondered "why the authorities of a revolutionary regime in Iran had overlooked the importance, rather the need, to improve relations between two countries."

KAYHAN also underlined that "China's stance in the eight years of the imposed war and its attitude towards Iran after it accepted the Security Council Resolution 598 must have been effective in making the Iranian officials rectify their outlook."

The daily further noted that "the recent attempts of the arrogant powers to initiate an anti-Iran stance at the Security Council after Hashemi-Rafsanjani called on the Palestinians to retaliate the Israeli brutalities reportedly failed because of China's refusal to see eye to eye with other members."

"The real significance (of the visit) is that the Iranian statesmen have apparently come to the conclusion that some basic changes have to be effected in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran," it concluded.

RESALAT Interviews PRC Ambassador to Tehran

NC1105050489 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 3 May 89 p 3

["Exclusive" interview with Wang Benzuo, PRC ambassador to Iran, by unidentified RESALAT correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Unidentified correspondent] What are the areas in which Iran and the PRC cooperate and how extensive is the trade between the two countries?

[Wang] [Passage omitted] The ties between the two countries are not confined to the political and economic spheres. We also have extensive cooperation in the education, culture, science and technology, health, sports, and radio and television spheres.

In addition, there is cooperation between the people's organizations, workers' associations, and women's and youth organizations. The exchange of friendly visits by the two countries is also of immense importance; we can cite, for example, the recent visit by Mr Va'ez Tabasi, the custodian of the holy shrine in Mashhad.

The volume of trade between Iran and the PRC reached $280 million in 1983 and rose to $300 million in 1987. Cooperation between the two countries also continues in commercial fishing in the Persian Gulf. We have also reached agreement on cooperation on a joint railroad project, and we dispatched some experts to your country whose work is now nearing completion.

We are also collaborating in the construction of a dam on the Karkheh River in Khuzestan Province. Other projects will include the construction of power stations, power production, steel production, and telecommunications, on which talks are in progress.

The PRC's imports from Iran mostly consist of oil, which we import in order to maintain the balance of trade between two countries. The PRC's production of crude oil is at present 130 million tons annually. [sentence as published] We also purchase dried fruits, minerals, and some buses from your country.

In general, the products we have bought from your country are fewer in variety and we are trying to increase cooperation in various fields. Both Iran and the PRC are developing countries and there is immense scope for mutual cooperation. In our opinion, the expansion of relations between our two countries in various fields would be to the advantage of both.

[Correspondent] Is there any military cooperation between the two countries?

[Wang] In our opinion, cooperation in the military field between the two countries is not impossible. If our Iranian friends display any interest in this topic we are ready to discuss it with them.

[Correspondent] In view of the fact that the PRC is one of the permanent members of the UN Security Council, what, in Your Excellency's opinion, is the reason for the lack of progress in the Iran-Iraq talks?

[Wang] We have had many contacts with our Iranian friends since the commencement of the Iran-Iraq talks on Resolution 598. We sincerely wish that the two countries of Iran and Iraq would resolve their problems peacefully. This would greatly benefit the economies and peoples of the two countries. This is the basic principled position of our country. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Some months ago, a problem arose in PRC-Iranian relations with the delivery of some long-range missiles to a regional country. Has this problem been resolved?

[Wang] Yes, it has. Your deputy foreign minister, Javad Mansuri, discussed this issue with us and we informed him of our country's position on the issue. The country in question is Saudi Arabia and it was given the missiles after it had provided certain guarantees.

[Correspondent] Did Saudi Arabia provide the guarantees before getting the missiles or after?

[Wang] It supplied the guarantees before the purchase took place. However, we had insisted that Saudi Arabia should provide these guarantees. [passage omitted]

Official Cited on Arms Agreement With USSR

NC0805201189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 May 89 pp 1,7

[Correspondent M. Firozi report: "Iran, Soviets on Verge of Signing Weapons Accords"]

[Text] Tehran—A senior official of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that Iran is on the verge of signing a series of agreements with the Soviet Union for the purchase of weapons.

Foreign Ministry First Deputy Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said, "Extensive talks were held by the officials of the two countries and all related issues have been finalized."

Besharati said the two countries are to sign agreements soon. He did not specify the dates for the agreements.

When asked why Iran is buying weapons from the Soviet Union Besharati said, "Well, it is all based on the policy of 'neither East nor West'."

"And moreover," he said, "the eight-year war experience taught us a lesson that we should not rely on a single country for our weaponry needs."

He was referring to the military facilities of Iran during the shah's regime, in which there was sole dependence on the West. When the war was imposed by Iraq on Iran the West imposed all sorts of embargoes on Iran including the blockade of weapons. The bans were effected because after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution, Iran was not ready to serve the interests of the West any more.

"You see that if we depend on one particular country or bloc, then they take undue advantage from the situation," he said, adding that "they want to impose their own ideology on us."

"The supply of weapons should be diversified," Besharati said.

Responding to another question, Besharati said, "Yes, we have also decided that the systems of the Air Force should also be diversified."

"We have gone into negotiations with various countries except the Soviet Union for the purchase of fighter bombers," he said. It is recalled that the Iranian Air Force has all its facilities from the United States.

"Very soon you will see fighter bombers flying in the air which are other than those of the United States and the Soviet Union," wearing a smile on his face he said without going into details.

He said that Iran-Soviet Union relations are good and the exchange of high-level visits are furthering these relations. Besharati said that Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani is due to visit the Soviet Union in one month's time. All has been set for Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit which will be important for bringing the two countries nearer.

"Hashemi-Rafsanjani will also go to Hungary which is also important to bring Tehran and Budapest closer," he said.

"Our relations with the Eastern Bloc are improving rapidly on the basis of neither East nor West," he said.

Besharati scoffed at the denial of West Germany on the Iranian charges or having a hand in spying in Iran by Bonn. He said "such denials have become a routine diplomatic job by these countries."

He recalled that when the U.S. spy plane U-2 crashed in the Soviet Union the then President John F. Kennedy denied the report. President Kennedy denied the incident even when the spy plane pilot Francis Powers appeared on the Soviet television and admitted to spying. [paragraph as published]

"Well, we understand the West German denial. They provided training and other facilities. All relevant proofs will be made public soon," Besharati said.

ABRAR Condemns Western Criticism of 'Executions'

LD1005165789 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—A Persian daily today lashed out at the London-based Amnesty International [AI] and Western mass media for their protest against the execution of murderers and drug traffickers in Iran.

"Amnesty International condemns the execution of a murderer and drug traffickers... but keeps silent on international producers and distributors of narcotics, those involved in spreading moral corruption," ABRAR said.

In an editorial, the daily quoted a Canadian daily criticizing the enforcement of divine laws against murderers, prostitutes and adulterers, on tbe basis of AI reports, as an "inhuman act".

"The point is that Western mass media consider the death sentence for a criminal, a murderer and a rapist an act of savagery while Western rulers execute hundreds of innocent people every day solely for their awareness or calls for justice."

"Do Amnesty International and the Canadian daily not know how many people are virtually executed in occupied Palestine, Lebanon, Afghanistan, South Africa and other places where the West has a foothold?" ABRAR questioned.

"Is the execution of Palestinian children justifiable? Has any report ever been published in this regard? Aren't Israel's massacre of Palestinians in Sabra and Shatila and ceaseless bloodshed in Lebanon considered acts of barbarism?" questioned the daily.

KEYHAN Accuses 'Arafat of Betraying People

LD1005173489 Tehran IRNA in English 1706 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 10, IRNA—Yasir 'Arafat has betrayed the cause of Palestinians for more than 14 years now, said a Persian daily today.

KEYHAN said the PLO chief has expressly backed down from the principal motto of the Palestinians and opted for self-humiliating and fruitless negotiations with the U.S. and the Zionist regime when there is practically no ground to believe that negotiations is the ultimate solution to the plight of Palestinian Muslims.

The commentary recalled 'Arafat's "news making" visit to the U.N. in 1975, and said the Al-Fatah leader had a secret meeting in New York's Waldorf Astoria Hotel, and among people present were a certain CIA officer as well as 'Arafat's aide 'Ali Hasan Salmah. "The topic of their talks was a proposition for restricting acts of terrorism by the Palestinians."

The evening daily also dwelt on other clandestine meetings between 'Arafat and U.S. officials as disclosed by the London daily 'GUARDIAN' in its issue of December, 1988, and said "although in such secret meetings 'Arafat always promised that he would prevent attacks against U.S. citizens, Washington continued to accuse him for having been behind the assassination of Americans outside Palestine."

"GUARDIAN's commentator wonders which side is in the right. He says the evidence is contradictory and that much of it has been undisclosed. He concludes later in the same commentary, however, that for two years since 1974 the Al-Fatah led by 'Arafat remained committed to its pledge for refusing attempts against the lives of Americans."

It also noted George Habash's objection that Yasir 'Arafat does not speak for all Palestinians following the PLO chief's remarks to French President Francois Mitterrand that in his opinion the National Charter of Palestine and its constitution which originally foresaw the destruction of the Zionist state is no longer valid.

"What 'Arafat proclaims now was in fact sown by the CIA in a room at Hotel Waldorf 14 years ago. The Fatah chief who before that secret meeting, even disdained the word 'negotiations' as a self-humiliating gesture and a token of wretchedness has today been transformed into a tourist with no identity junketting between Cairo, Amman, Baghdad and Washington with the wishful hope of boasting of negotiations with the Likud Party," KEYHAN remarked.

It asked "will the Palestinian revolution settle for conciliation amid such visits and promises by the Americans?"

The course of events, said the daily, is good evidence that as the acquiescent advocates of the Camp David accord and the Waldorf meet get closer together at negotiating tables they equally as though feed the intifada in occupied Palestine. [sentence as received]

"When 'Arafat turned in his weapon to the CIA and agreed to join them, people in occupied Palestine relied more heavily on the weapon of their faith in God and their determination to resist settling for anything below their ideal or else they would never have relied on stones on city streets and their primitive slings..." it noted.

"What human rights can define the defensive acts of oppressed Palestinians under the general definition of 'terrorism?'"

In the face of a tit-for-tat which aims precisely at the heart of world arrogance the propaganda bull-horns of the imperialist powers shout that the lives of Americans and British are being threatened, said the daily.

"But" it added, the people in the U.S. and Britain know fully well that theirs is not the same as that of their government and administrators the architects of suppression of Palestinian Muslims.

"Palestinian Muslims are fighting arrogant and reactionary governments," and in their doing they will not hampered by the label of 'terrorists and terrorism,' concluded the daily.

Ambassador to Syria Meets With Nabih Birri

LD0805175189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Nabih Birri the head of the Amal Movement, and Sayyid 'Abbas Musawi and Sayyid Hasan Musawi, members of the leadership council of the revolutionary Hizballah movement of Lebanon, met with the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Syria Sunday night in Damascus.

According to IRNA, issues of interest to the parties concerned and the current situation in Lebanon were discussed.

UAE President Calls for Expanded Cooperation

LD0905173289 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—The president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE] in a message to his Iranian counterpart hoped that cooperation between the two countries as well as among other Muslim states will foil any plot to insult Islamic sanctities.

Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan's written message to Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i (currently visiting China) was handed over to First Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati by the UAE charge d'affaires Tariq Ahmad al-Haydan here Tuesday.

In his message the UAE ruler also announced his country's all-out readiness for expanded cooperation in any field which could help strengthen Islam.

Khamene'i Receives Afghan Alliance Leaders

LD0705182489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 May 89

[Text] The leaders of the Eight-Party Alliance Council of Afghanistan's mujahidin, based in Iran, this afternoon, were recieved by President Khamene'i. In this meeting, which was also attended by Foreign Minister Velayati, first, Zahedi, spokesman for the Eight-Party Alliance Council of Afghanistan's mujahidin, while expressing greetings on the occasion of the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, presented a report to our president on the latest developments in Afghanistan and the struggles of the Muslim Afghan mujahidin against the illegal Afghan regime.

Next, President Khamene'i, responding with good wishes for the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr to the members of the Eight-Party Alliance Council and to all Muslim mujahidin in the resistance trenches in Afghanistan, said: For us the Afghanistan issue is an ideological and political question because, from the ideological standpoint, it is our duty to assist the Muslim people of Afghanistan who are under pressure.

The president referred to the lengthy borders shared by the Muslim countries of Iran and Afghanistan and said: The issue of the Islamic Republic of Iran's [IRI] national security is linked to Afghanistan's security and we cannot, on any account, be indifferent to the future government of Afghanistan,

In conclusion, the president emphasized the continuation of the IRI's fraternal support for the Muslim mujahidin of Afghanistan and gave the necessary guidelines for full unity between the Afghan resistance groups.

Bank Governor Leads Delegation to Bucharest

LD0805142989 Tehran IRNA in English 1414 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—Governor of the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran Majid Qasemi heading a delegation left here for Bucharest for a five-day visit.

The volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Romania was dlrs. 300 million in 1988, less than the predicted amount in the two countries' protocol, Qasemi said before departure.

"We will investigate reasons for this decline and hold talks on banking, technical and economic issues of the protocol," he said.

Qasemi is to meet with the Romanian prime minister, and ministers of foreign trade and planning and economic affairs.

Ambassador to Sweden Appointed Envoy to Iceland

NC0905160189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] On the recommendation of Mr Velayati, the foreign minister, and with the approval of President Khamene'i, Mr Mehdi Danesh-Yazdi, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Sweden, has been appointed as Iran's accredited envoy to Iceland.

Commentary Calls Saddam West's 'Gendarme' in Gulf

NC0905084889 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Apr 89 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "Why Is Iraq Obstructing the Peace Talks?"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] By wasting time, the Iraqis want months and years to pass so that the peace talks will be forgotten and they can calmly achieve all their objectives.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's acceptance of the UN secretary general's four-point plan, which exhibited Iran's intention to cooperate and show good will in the peace talks, was apparently taken by Iraq to mean a flexibility that stems from weakness. This is why Iraq refrained from accepting this plan.

It seems that if Iraq does not express a clear and definite position on the four-point plan and if the UN secretary general and the Security Council, which are responsible for the implementation of UN Resolution 598, do not force Iraq in the upcoming talks to accept and implement UN Resolution 598—which has been repeatedly advocated by the Iraqi officials and the Arab leaders and mentors of Saddam—then we cannot expect any positive outcome.

Saddam, in his role of a gendarme who is defending the West's interests in the Persian Gulf—and this can be seen in the support for Michel 'Awn's government in Lebanon, his 3-hour visit to Jordan, his support for King Husayn in the Jordanian people's uprising, the alliance with Egypt, and so on—is showing the United States and Europe that their generous investment in Saddam's regime and the Iraqi Army has been worthwhile and that Saddam can be a bayonet in the hand of the West.

Naturally all these good services call for a reward, and the Iraqi regime wants to achieve in peace those objectives that it was unable to achieve in war. This is the only reason for the obstructionism.

Commentary Criticizes Superpower Support for Iraq

NC0905091389 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 25 Apr 89 pp 13, 14

[Marvi commentary: "Peace Is the Outcome of the Strength of the Armed Forces"]

[Excerpts] Another round of peace talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq under the direct supervision of the UN secretary general ended in Geneva without any progress. [passage omitted]

When UN Resolution 598 was unanimously approved, the world cried out that for the first time in the history of the past decades, the United Nations was able to approve a resolution that could end the long-lasting Persian Gulf war and, more important yet, manifest the political determination of the powerful members of the Security Council to end a significant regional conflict.

In those days there was much talk of a plan to impose vast and comprehensive economic and military sanctions on the side that would not accept the resolution; this idea was strongly supported. But today, after almost 1 year, although there is no war, there is no peace either.

The Persian Gulf, Iran, and the Iraqi nation are waiting for a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. But the Ba'thist government is refraining from entering into negotiations on basic issues that can help to break the deadlock. [passage omitted]

The question now is: What elements are making Iraq insist on its unprincipled stand in the peace talks? One can glean several reasons by merely looking at the developments of the past few months.

Some of the permanent members of the Security Council, each with a different motive, benefit from the protraction of the Iran-Iraq talks and want to exploit the opportunity that arises from this protraction.

Washington, which after the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf war and the start of the era of reconstruction in Iran has been anticipating a normalization of relations with Tehran, is involved in a series of misgivings on the absence of balance and, what it calls, "the struggle between the extremists and the moderates" in Iran.

This is at a time when, during recent months, the administration in Washington has become closer to the Baghdad regime and after it has received compensations from Baghdad for the families of the sailors who were killed in the "Stark" incident.

Washington remained silent on the scandal that started with the Iraqi Armed Forces' use of chemical weapons again—after the cease-fire was established—in Kurdistan. It also postponed discussions on a bill proposed by Congress calling for economic sanctions on Iraq.

Meanwhile, Washington's indirect political support for Iraq, such as the statement in an annual State Department report that Iraq decreased its terrorist activities in 1988, is yet more proof of Washington's policy of rapprochement with Baghdad.

Also, American industrialists who are active in the Arab Middle East are seeking new opportunities in the profitable market in Iraq and in other Arab oil-producing countries, in view of the extensive economic development in Iraq during the past few months. A clear manifestation of this was the liberalization and privatization of the extremely centralized Iraqi economy.

On the other side we have the Soviet Union which, with its two-faced behavior, has adopted a position of "tilting the cup but not spilling it." During his recent trip to the Middle East, Mr Shevardnadze apparently was seeking—in Iran and Iraq—new peaceful solutions and ways to create a new impetus in the Iran-Iraq peace talks.

During his trip to Iran, he spoke of a "flexibility in the Iraqi leadership for the establishment of lasting peace with Iran." And on the basis of this, he called on Iran to display flexibility in the talks and also for Iran's "useful activities in the Afghanistan problem" which has become the main axis of Moscow's policy in the region during recent months.

The assessment of Mr Shevardnadze's trip to Baghdad and Tehran was that Moscow intended to create an equilibrium in its policy in the region. However, not only did the Iranian representatives in Geneva not see any new flexibility on the part of the Iraqi delegation, but news of the active participation by the Soviet arms industries in the upcoming Baghdad military exhibition was received in Tehran with great surprise.

By issuing permission for the manufacture of the advanced T-72 tanks in Iraq—an unprecedented act—Moscow elevated its military cooperation with Iraq and has trampled on its tacit commitment to refrain from acts that may have a negative impact on the peace talks within the framework of UN Resolution 598.

In other words, Moscow is evading any act that may effectively influence its military ally in the Arab world—meaning Iraq—as far as its growing inclination toward the West is concerned, at the cost of a situation of neither war nor peace, which is as harmful to the people of the region as is a situation of war.

Of course, it is necessary to point out one thing here: During recent months both Washington and Moscow—each in its own way—have decreased the extent of their political offensive against Tehran. During the past few weeks, the United States has withdrawn a considerable number of its mine-sweepers from the Persian Gulf and part of its AWACS from Saudi Arabia.

Moscow has, by intensifying its commercial and economic talks with Tehran, presented a new vista in Tehran-Moscow relations. However, the extent of the closeness of Washington and Moscow to Baghdad is such that it helps Iraq to strengthen its notion that it is a great power in the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

By exploiting the apparent indifference shown by the permanent members of the Security Council, Iraq is seeking to strengthen its position in the region and to impose its territorial and political claims on Iran. Meanwhile, it will sit and wait until an outcome is achieved from the political developments in Iran.

Our country is now on the eve of important developments, such as possible significant changes in the Constitution and the presidential elections. Naturally, Iraq and its mentors will wait to see what the outcome of these developments are.

However, this is an opportunity which we should also use as best we can. The formulators of Iran's foreign policy should upset Iraq's political game which, in one way or another, links that country's position in the peace talks with the outcome of fundamental changes in Iran. They should impose their political determination by strengthening the Armed Forces.

Only under one condition will Ba'thist Iraq be prepared to talk, display true flexibility, and want true peace, and that is when it feels that Iran's Armed Forces have an effective combat and moral readiness and can fight in order to achieve peace.

Commentary on Boosting Gulf Defense Capability

NC1005151089 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 May 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Coinciding with the auspicious 'Id al-Fitr, the great "Zolfaqar-4" naval maneuvers took place in the international waters of the Persian Gulf with the participation of three branches of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the land, sea, and air forces.

The final stage of the joint "Zolfaqar" maneuvers was attended by Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the acting commander in chief, some high-level military officials, and Islamic Majlis deputies. [passage omitted]

The continued and active presence and complete readiness of our naval forces in the Persian Gulf not only show our country's military supremacy and defense capability as regards our maritime borders, but, in the opinion of political observers, further affirm the basis and position of the Islamic Republic of Iran's policy on the manner of safeguarding and utilizing this international waterway.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's policy has continually stressed the protection of the Persian Gulf region by the countries in this region, and effective and beneficial measures have been taken in this regard.

From the economic point of view, the Persian Gulf is considered the pulse of the region. Any kind of foreign intervention in its administration or safety will be tantamount to handing over the political-economic pulse of the countries in the area to foreigners, and will enable them to turn the situation to their own benefit and consolidate their illicit interests, thus seriously endangering the political and economic independence of these countries.

Thus, the reasonable and firm policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning safeguarding the region's security by the countries in the region is for the purpose of defending the independence and territorial integrity of the people there, and their sovereignty over their own destinies.

Therefore, since the Islamic Republic of Iran is the strongest country in the region with the longest coastal border on the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, it is capable of providing for greater security of the region by strengthening its naval ability.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Navy thus has the greatest obligation in implementing this policy. The staging of maneuvers toward this end and the reconstruction of its military facilities and equipment, replacing them with modern equipment, as well as the upgrading of military know-how and combat training, will certainly boost the defense capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran and at the same time benefit all the nations of the region.

Editorial Endorses Fighting Cultural Enemy

NC0905121889 Tehran PASDAR-E ELSAM in Persian 21 Apr 89 pp 10, 11, 50

[Unattributed editorial: "We Should Not Ignore the Enemy"]

[Excerpts] The fight between good and evil is a perpetual fight, and as long as there are good and evil in the world the fight between them will continue in one form or another. [passage omitted]

The cultural war too is among the links in the chain of such struggles. It is said in classified publications of the West that at the onset of the imposed war a joint meeting attended by Reagan, Mitterrand, and Thatcher took place in order to discuss a serious confrontation with Iran and that during that meeting responsibilities were divided and the responsibility to spread cultural corruption in Iran was placed on Thatcher's shoulders. The production of anti-Islamic films and the publication of books insulting the Koran and the Prophet of God in Britain may have been among the activities aimed at achieving this end. [passage omitted]

If we had a sensitive information organization which would closely follow the growing corruption in society, the efforts to do away with Islamic garb, the pushing of our youth toward "punkism," the advertising of disgusting clothing for men and women by the boutiques, the overt distribution of cassettes and corrupt films, and other ugly acts that we can see taking place and rapidly increasing in our society would be followed closely, and this organization would find out where such behavior comes from.

It is not impossible that the end of these activities' yarn will be found in the hands of Britain, which is acting according to the Satanic duties with which it was assigned. But, unfortunately, the officials of the country do not yet feel any danger emanating from this growing antireligious activity. Are these activities not paving the ground for another military attack, even if in the long term?

Assuming that we do not regard this issue from a religious point of view, should the fact that the social danger stemming from this, which in view of the sensitive situation that our country is facing makes this kind of aggression more effective against us than against any other country, give cause to some thought and farsightedness by the officials?

The war has not yet definitely ended and the possibility that the enemy will attack once again cannot be completely ruled out. It is said that one can feel an atmosphere of war in Baghdad and the people expect at any moment to hear war sirens.

It is said that the Ba'thist regime of Iraq continues to have heavy troop concentrations on the borders and inside Iranian territory, that combat-engineering activities and the building of strong points continue, and that—as pointed out by foreign news agencies as well—the strengthening of the military structure continues.

It is also said that world arrogance and regional reactionaries who feign a desire for peace and calm are arming and strengthening Iraq more and more each day.

What have we, who follow the teachings of the Koran, done as far as readiness is concerned? Our greatest strength has been our faith and our religious feelings, which may have been the only determining factor in the 8-year war on the Islamic front.

What programs have been established to strengthen and maintain this immense strength? What have we done to confront the efforts of the enemies of Islam in annihilating this victorious weapon that is in the hands of the Islamic Republic?

Let us assume that peace is established. Have we forgotten that our principal enemy is not Iraq but the United States, the Western world's arrogance, and all of the infidels of the world in general? Is it possible for this principal enemy to make peace with us? Does peace between Islam and infidels mean anything?

The imam has stated that "peace between Islam and the infidels does not mean anything." Therefore, if peace is established with Iraq, we should expect other attacks—even though in other forms and tactics—from the main enemy. How can we tell if another military attack, and under much better conditions for the enemy, will not take place from Iraq or from any other place? [passage omitted]

Of course, we do not want war, and any human being prefers a peaceful and calm life to living in a situation of war and agitation. However, true peace can be achieved only through readiness to confront the enemy. [passage omitted]

In short, the existence of a balance of power and readiness between the two belligerent sides ensures the establishment of peace and calm. Readiness should be present in all aspects. As far as the special situation of our country and our revolution is concerned, which all the world-devourers are bent on destroying, the most important defense preparedness should be our spirit of combat, resistance, martyrdom-seeking, and faith. [passage omitted]

Our youth should always be dressed in military dress, not in the ugly and indecent models brought in from Western markets to corrupt our society. Our youth and children should sing revolutionary and epic songs, not the ugly songs that are broadcast now and whose propagation they are insisting on.

Moreover, the joyful atmosphere which the mass media insist on and the sinful things that are being propagated by secretive minions of colonialism have become a source of regret and disappointment for the Hezbollahi and pious people.

Repeated questions are asked about buses in which sinful songs of the era of corruption are fearlessly played. If anyone objects, he receives a harsh answer that such songs are allowed to be played, is threatened with being beaten up, or is told to get off the bus in the middle of nowhere. The fact that sinful cassettes are sold in cassette shops and in the streets is something well known.

The violation of Islamic garb and dressing in ugly foreign-made and domestic-made clothes cause concern among all the decent Hezbollahis who ask if the values of Islam and its teachings have all been forgotten because of peace. [passage omitted]

At any rate, it is asked why a serious step is not taken vis-a-vis this extremely sensitive and dangerous issue. Order in the Islamic system dictates that the disciplinary officials take the necessary steps against these sins so that chaos is avoided.

Of course, forbidding someone verbally does not need to be made by an official, but it is obvious that in such a social atmosphere verbal discipline is not enough and a serious and decisive confrontation in the cultural and practical aspects is necessary.

Musavi Addresses Economic Groups on Cooperation

LD0805175389 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 8 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 8, IRNA—Premier Hoseyn Musavi said here today that the well-being of national economy is dependent on a better collaboration between the government sector, the cooperatives and the private sector.

He said the Islamic government approves of the involvement of the private sector in the economic growth of the country, but reminded that Islam does not allow "unlicensed freedom" for the private sector, a condition, in the premier's words tending to create "extremely rich people dwelling in palaces against very poor and economically oppressed masses."

Musavi addressing a joint assembly of national coordination and a high development council for the provinces, said a principal government goal in its five-year plan is to increase the employment rate.

He deplored that since the establishment of local consumer cooperatives throughout the country certain elements have launched propaganda wars with the idea of claiming that the cooperatives are meant to lead the country towards socialism.

The government will not desist from helping the cooperatives because they contribute to employment and economic well-being, he added.

Behzad Nabavi Calls for Increased Exports

LD0905165689 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Tehran, May 9, IRNA—One of the longest serving cabinet ministers has made a strong plea to boost oil and non-oil exports to finance the country's reconstruction and infrastructure economic plans.

"To reach these goals we must increase our hard currency earning through ever greater oil and non-oil exports," Heavy Industry Minister Behzad Nabavi has been quoted as saying.

Nabavi who has served in every cabinet since 1981 stressed that special efforts should be made to reduce obstacles facing non-oil exports and tap the private sector's unused foreign currency.

"If some people got rich this way we shouldn't howl and say our socialist principles have been damaged. We must make the best use of... all foreign exchange outside official channels."

The daily RESALAT Tuesday [9 May] reported him as saying that those who wanted to get rich were already doing so in the service sector. "So at least let them get rich by exporting non-oil goods to the benefit of the country."

In the Iranian year 1366 (March 1987-88) non-oil exports jumped to dlrs 1.1 billion. Nabavi said this could have reached dlrs 1.5 billion but that last year it dropped to just over dlrs 900 million.

He noted that Iran was far behind Indonesia, another major OPEC oil producer, in non-oil exports. Jakarta earns dlrs 8 billion in marketing non-oil goods abroad, he said.

Two weeks ago the paper published the country's reconstruction policy document which called for the sell-off of all non-strategic profit and loss-making state companies worth billions of dollars.

Nabavi who was answering questions from students at a meeting held at Tehran University's Technical College last week said there was a strong tendency to give the private sector a greater share of the economy.

"Right now it's not clear. There's a high temperature for to privatize the economy but we don't know when it will surface. At the moment though, the existing atmosphere (for privatization) is very strong."

Nabavi said the collapse of oil prices in the middle of the decade robbed Iran of more than one half of its oil revenue and thus made it's first five year social and economic plan impractical.

Its implementation has been postponed till today and is currently being studied by the Majlis. "Fortunately there exists in society a good climate for planning and we take that as a good omen."

Nabavi also spoke on the current efforts to crack down on overcharging and profiteering. The effective way, he believed, to control the price of unessential goods was to boost production and government price-fixing could not root-out the problem.

"Until there's a lack of balance in supply and demand the fight against overcharging will not be a fundamental solution... the basic solution is to increase gross domestic production."

Nabavi said he, as one of the architects of the rationing system for basic food stuffs and other essential consumer products, believed government subsidies could solve 80 percent of inflation. The rest could only be controlled by increased domestic production.

'Insurgents' Group in Baluchestan 'Liquidated'

NC1105074289 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Following a series of consecutive operations by the IRGC [Islamic Revolution Guards Corps] and the noble tribesmen of the Hamizah Seyyed ol-Shohada Headquarters, a group of insurgents affiliated with the agents of oppression was liquidated in Baluchestan, according to IRNA.

This was announced by the commander of the 10th Nabi-ye Akram Corps who said: These operations were carried out last month under the name of Ramadan and were launched to purge the infested areas in Bent and Tutan in the area around Nikshahr in Baluchestan.

Regarding the modus operandi of the Ramadan operations, he said: The guards and tribesmen of the Hamizah Seyyed ol-Shohada Headquarters carried out these operations by directing a purge of the counterrevolutionaries in the designated areas which were mountainous and difficult to traverse. They did this after walking 150 km, setting up ambush points and besieging the entire area. They were thus successful in killing 10 members of an important group of insurgents following some clashes.

In these operations, some members of the group were wounded and some were taken prisoner. A considerable quantity of arms and ammunition was seized as booty by the forces of Islam.

Editorial on 'Reappraisal' of Constitution

NC0905180889 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 May 89

[Editorial: "Some Points on the Reappraisal of the Constitution"]

[Text] The Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution has called on scholars and perceptive persons to submit their suggestions and opinions to the council's secretariat, especially regarding the eight axes [mehvar] specified for revision.

This approach to the issue that the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution has adopted is an admirable one; in this way the council is seeking to utilize the opinions and ideas of scholars and those who are in some way connected with executive and legislative matters.

Thus, those who identify possible shortcomings and discrepancies in the text of the Constitution will be able to add complementary recommendations and amendments.

Ten years after the victory of the Islamic revolution and in light of the various stages that the revolution has passed through, it has now been established that there is a need for a reappraisal of some of the articles of the Constitution.

However, the main point is that, as far as possible, the new articles should be compiled in such a manner that they are not designed only to meet the needs of a specific period or exigency, but are comprehensive and succinct enough to provide appropriate methods for resolving the problems and difficulties of the country and society both now and in the future.

One of the basic pillars of the Islamic Republic's Constitution is the issue of the leadership and it is this particular topic that differentiates our Constitution from the laws of other countries. It is reported that the imam declared some very definite views regarding the leadership; he made it clear that it was not necessary to be a marja' [source of emulation] and that a just "mojtahed" [qualified jurisprudent] would be endorsed by the country's experts.

If the people vote for the Council of Experts who, in turn, elect a just mojtahed as leader of their government—that is, if they have appointed a person to take over the leadership—he will obviously be accepted by the people and his rule will be implemented.

Therefore, on this basis, where the discourse on leadership is concerned, the imam's guidelines are extremely clear. Naturally, the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution will be better able to tackle the subject of the leadership in light of these guidelines.

However, it is necessary to have a more intensive discussion of various viewpoints as regards all the articles and axes of the reappraisal of the Constitution so that the articles pertaining to these issues are not dealt with on a short-term basis, in relation to present or probable officials only, and in order to meet the needs of the hour.

Decisions on the centralization of management, responsibilities, powers, and legal authority in every branch of the government should not be based on the abilities, prowess, or expertise of individuals.

Even though this may facilitate the acceleration of the movement of the revolution and executive affairs for years, the problem is that such laws would be tailored to the present ability of some of the officials holding these posts with extremely wide legal powers which are only appropriate to those particular individuals. It does not take into account future possibilities.

It would be a mistake if the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution endeavored to stretch the limits of responsibility and the extent of jurisdiction of key posts to take into account specific individuals who have performed at a high level and have to date displayed high managerial abilities. It is possible that persons selected at a later date might not have such a high ability threshold. They might face executive and legal problems and this garment would hang loosely on them.

Now that the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution has invited the recommendations of perceptive individuals, it is expected that the experts and thinkers will respond to this invitation in an active and positive manner and will not hesitate fully to proffer their experience and viewpoints in order to strengthen the text of the addendum to the Constitution.

Friend and foe alike are watching to see how we compile an addendum to the Constitution and what amendments we will draw up—10 years after the revolution. This issue concerns the people in general and the scholars and perceptive ones in particular.

Naturally, the responsibility of the latter is greater. This is because the Constitution is the foundation of future action and a strong and effective Constitution will be a source of dynamism and progress for the system and the revolution.

Nepal

Leaders' Readiness To Talk With India Noted

BK0705123989 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 30 Apr 89 p 4

[Editorial: "For a Fair Deal"]

[Text] The Foreign Minister, Mr. Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya while commenting on the remarks made by the Indian Foreign Minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao on Nepal-India relations, has put in simple and clear terms Nepal's views and position on different aspects of Nepal-India relations.

Mr. Upadhyaya rightly remarked that Nepal could not be held responsible for the act of deliberate omission on the part of India.

Nepal has not only clarified its position to the Indian side on the different aspects of Nepal India relations but His Majesty's Government's readiness and willingness to sit across the table and discuss the matter has been repeatedly made known to the Government of India.

For this, Prime Minister Marich Man Singh Shrestha has also said that Nepal has always been ready to discuss and negotiate problems with India including the question of trade and transit in an atmosphere of friendship.

Kathmandu is awaiting suggestions from New Delhi regarding the agenda of the talks, the level, time and venue. Nepal has also clarified that India's suggestion for the venue for the talks would be acceptable to it and has informed India its readiness to have friendly talks with India on all issues including trade and transit.

Nepal is also willing to review the Peace and Friendship Treaty with a view to making it in tune with time. Nepalese readiness for friendly dialogues has been communicated to India through diplomatic channels.

As regards the position of Nepal on separate treaties for trade and transit, Foreign Minister Upadhyaya once again clarified that trade is a matter of periodic convenience for the two, while transit for a landlocked country was a permanent need and it has been so recognised by the international laws and conventions.

Mr Upadhyaya, while inaugurating a one day seminar on questions that have arisen in Nepal-India relations Friday rightly clarified that Nepal looked forward to a fair deal from India on the basis of sovereign equality, independence and territorial integrity.

That Nepal has not pleaded with India for any specific number of transit points but it will accept whatever India provides on the basis of friendly dialogue has also been clarified by the Foreign Minister.

In fact as a landlocked country it is its right to have unrestricted access to and from the sea as per international law. Despite the willingness repeatedly shown by Nepal and its readiness to start immediate negotiations there has been no response towards beginning the talks by India.

We, therefore, hope that India would come forward to begin negotiations without causing any further delay.

Party, Students Criticize Government Actions

BK0605094389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 May 89

[Text] The Nepali Congress has criticized the undignified manner in which the Nepalese Government has been handling the present situation that is causing hardship to the people.

In a statement, it also condemned the arrest of party's treasurer, activists of National Vidiarth Sangh [Students Association], and journalists, and demanded their release.

Eight national students organizations in Nepal have, in a statement, stated that the manner in which the government is handling Indo-Nepal relations cannot be resolved by keeping the university closed. The statement demanded reopening of the university campus and release of all arrested students.

Government Lifts Travel Restrictions in 18 Areas

BK0905113889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1122 GMT 9 May 89

[Text] Kathmandu, May 9 (AFP)—The Nepalese Government, in a bid to boost tourism, said Tuesday [9 May] that it was lifting travel restrictions in 18 areas of the remote northwest closed to foreigners for two decades.

The Home Ministry said in a statement that it was opening 18 of 23 restricted village areas in Dolpa district, 290 kilometers (180 miles) from Kathmandu on the border with Tibet.

The villages had previously been closed to foreigners owing to the difficult terrain and the lack of proper medical facilities and surface communications in case of accident, a ministry official said.

The restrictions were lifted in Rimi, Kaigaun, Sarmi, Narku, Kalika, Laha, Likhu, Pahada, Tripurakot, Suhun, Jufa, Dajhfal, Dunai, Raha, Lawan, Saharfara, Koksindo and Dho villages, the statement said.

The ministry statement did not give a reason for the decision, but ministry sources said its aim was to encourage tourism.

The move is expected to provide new areas of interest for trekkers, geologists and anthropologists who have been exploring Nepal's foothills since the Himalayan kingdom opened its doors to the outside world in 1950.

The Home Ministry said however that it was maintaining a ban on foreigners in the five other restricted villages in Dolpa and 40 villages in a dozen other remote northern districts.

Districts where villages remained banned to foreigners include Mugu, Humla, Bajhang, Darchula, Mustang, Manang, Gorkha, Rasuwa, Dolkha, Sankhuwa Sabha, Taplejung and Solukhumbu, the ministry said.

Local travel agencies welcomed the lifting of the restrictions in the 18 Dolpa villages and called on the government to lift the bans elsewhere.

Pakistan

UN Asked for More Posts To Monitor USSR Arms

BK1105092289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] Pakistan has formally asked the United Nations to set up additional posts in Afghanistan to monitor massive supplies of Soviet arms to Kabul regime in violation of the Geneva accords.

The proposal was conveyed to the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, by [Pakistani] Ambassador S. Shahnawaz, during his meeting with the world body chief last evening.

Pakistan wants the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] to set up posts in Haraytan and Towraghoudi Town bordering the Soviet Union and at the airports of Kabul, Baghran, Shindand, and Qandahar. The UN officials said Perez de Cuellar is considering the Pakistani proposal.

Earlier, Pakistan had agreed to UNGOMAP presence in Chaman, Parachinar, and Towr Kham in addition to the outposts at Quetta and Peshawar.

The ambassador informed the secretary general about Prime Minister Ms Benazir Bhutto's trip to New York in the course of her official visit to the United States next month.

Heavy Water Leaks From Karachi Nuclear Plant

BK1105090889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 May 89

[Text] In Pakistan, heavy water leaked from a defective valve at the Karachi Nuclear Power Plant. The country's Atomic Energy Commission, however, said that the water has no harmful radioactivity.

The leakage occurred on the 18th of last month and the plant has been shut down for inspection and maintenance.

The leak was said to have been caused by functional failure of a gasket in the valve.

Sri Lanka

Minister Cited on 'Formal Talks' With LTTE

BK1005144989 Hong Kong AFP in English 1428 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] Colombo, May 10 (AFP)—Formal talks with Sri Lanka's most powerful group of Tamil separatist guerrillas will begin soon, Foreign Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said Wednesday.

Local officials have been holding informal talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) since April 26 to clear the way for a direct peace dialogue with President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

"There is no doubt that the LTTE is determined to positively contribute to restoring peace in the country. Therefore, it is the bounden duty of every citizen to assist in this peace process," the minister said in a statement.

He did not say when the high-level talks would begin.

Rebel and official sources said, however, that the government was expected to upgrade its delegation to the ministerial level for talks likely to take place by the weekend.

LTTE's London-based political strategist, Anton Balasingham, has already held talks here with top officials, including Mr. Premadasa's chief aide, K.H.J. Wijedasa, but neither side has commented on any progress.

Immediately after the preliminary round, a joint statement termed the talks "frank and cordial." Since then, local news reports have speculated about unspecified LTTE demands and resistance from Colombo.

"The peace process will be greatly facilitated if we do not leave room for unnecessary speculation and imaginary interpretations," Mr. Wijeratne said.

The government was aware that LTTE activists were participating in the talks "amidst difficulties," he said.

At least 11 LTTE delegates, including Mr. Balasingham and his wife, have been put up at a deluxe hotel here under maximum security provided by dozens of plainclothesmen and troops.

Nine guerrillas were airlifted from their hideout in the northern jungles last week by two Sri Lankan Air Force helicopters even as fighting continued between Tiger rebels and Indian troops in the region.

The Tigers are waging a bush war against some 45,000 Indian troops deployed in the island's Tamil-populated north and east following a July 1987 peace accord between India and Sri Lanka.

Tiger rebels repudiated the peace pact, which sought to end the bloody Tamil separatist campaign. Their refusal to surrender their weapons prompted a major Indian offensive to disarm them.

More than 860 Indian soldiers and 2,000 Tiger fighters have died in fighting.

10 Reported Killed in Renewed Violence

BK1005163689 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 10 May 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, at least 10 people were killed in renewed violence involving Sinhalese militants. Two school principals were dragged out of their homes and shot in (Pulagahawella) village in northwestern Kurunegala District. They were supporters of the ruling United National Party.

In a separate incident, bodies of two suspected JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] activists were found in the (Chehlat) village region, north of Colombo.

Prime Minister Returns From Asian Bank Meeting

BK1005113089 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 10 May 89

[Excerpt] Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge returned to the island yesterday after his official visit to the People's Republic of China to participate in the 22d annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank [ADB].

The prime minister addressed the sessions of the 22d annual meeting of the ADB on Friday, the 5th.

Delegates from 47 countries participated at these sessions. Almost all the countries emphasized the importance for the alleviation of poverty and improvement of the quality of life.

The Janasevya Program initiated by the president, R. Premadasa, was highlighted and was received with acclaim.

The prime minister discussed matters of mutual interest to the two countries with the prime minister of China.

He also held discussions with the finance minister of China, Wang Bingqian, and acting minister for foreign economic relations and trade, Li Lanqing. [passage omitted]

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